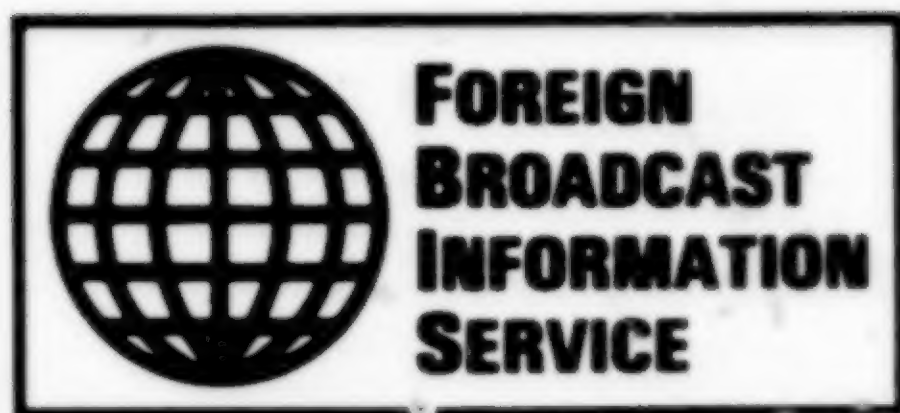




Daily Report

East Asia

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Trade Ministers Continue Quadrilateral Discussions

2d Round Talks Held 26 Apr

OW2604013792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0112 GMT
26 Apr 92

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 26 KYODO—The top trade officials from four major economic powers began their second plenary discussions Sunday morning seeking potential ways to successfully conclude global trade talks.

The participants in the 21st quadrilateral trade meeting are also scheduled to exchange views on issues arising after the end of the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations, which have dragged on for over five years.

The highlight of Sunday's discussions, being held at a resort hotel north of Tokyo, is whether the officials will decide to separate agricultural talks from other trade issues, such as services, in order to speed up the round.

The officials will consider schemes to end the farm talks by the end of June before the Munich summit in early July of leaders of the Group of Seven most industrialized democracies, as well as plans to completely conclude the entire round by this summer.

Relations between trade and protection of the environment and between trade and competition policies are also expected to be discussed, in anticipation of the post-Uruguay Round phase.

Japan's Minister of International Trade and Industry, Kozo Watanabe, who is chairing the meeting, plans to make a three-point proposal on trade and the environment.

Beside Watanabe, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, European Community Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, and Canadian Minister of International Trade Michael Wilson are taking part in the three-day meeting that began Friday.

The session will be closed to the media with a joint press conference scheduled Sunday afternoon.

Agree on Early GATT Solution

OW2604012692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0113 GMT
26 Apr 92

[Text] Kitashiobara, April 26 KYODO—Trade ministers from four major economic powers agreed to conclude the deadlocked Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks, a top Japanese Government source said Sunday.

They also agreed to fully conclude the talks by summer or fall, the source said.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, European Community (EC) Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, and Japanese Minister of International Trade

and Industry Kozo Watanabe held a closed-door working breakfast Sunday morning before opening the second plenary session of quadrilateral trade talks. The three-day talks are being held at a resort hotel in Kitashiobara, Fukushima Prefecture, north of Tokyo.

"The heart of the four ministers is one" on contributing to a successful conclusion of the stalled trade talks, the source said.

The source said Watanabe did not propose setting a more specific deadline to end the talks since that could lead negotiators to delay matters until just before the deadline.

The ministers also agreed to increase exchanges of information and to continue to cooperate, the source said.

Fail To Set Deadline

OW2604090192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0846 GMT
26 Apr 92

[By Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 26 KYODO—Top trade officials from Japan, the United States, the European Community (EC), and Canada failed Sunday to set a new deadline to wrap up the Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

At a joint press conference at the end of the three-day meeting on the stalled round, Kozo Watanabe, head of Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), said if a specific timeframe is set, negotiations might slow down until just before the target date.

Watanabe said thinking back on the previous deadlines that were not met, it is more important to start making "immediate, substantial" efforts without break to bring the 108-nation round to a successful conclusion.

He suggested the top officials from the four trading regions admitted the deadlock on agricultural trade between the U.S. and the EC has hindered progress in other trade areas.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills said a successful outcome of the whole negotiations depends on when the impediments are removed.

"It is difficult to put a deadline on when those impediments are swept away, but hopefully in the near term," Hills said.

EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen said the spirit felt from the informal meeting was "encouraging" to him so that the round may conclude in a short term.

While noting the Uruguay Round may not conclude successfully without resolution of the agricultural dispute, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson also said it is very important to move ahead to get progress in other fields.

Watanabe said the four trade officials reaffirmed the need to continue intensive negotiations to accelerate the entire round of talks and shared hopes to wrap up the talks as swiftly as possible.

But an EC official said that "substantially, nothing has changed."

The participants—Watanabe, Hills, Andriessen and Wilson—in the 21st quadrilateral trade meeting also discussed post-Uruguay Round phase issues, like relationship of trade and the environment, and of trade, competitiveness, and competition policies, said Watanabe who chaired the meeting.

The trade ministers agreed on two general rules to protect the global environment from a viewpoint of trading activities—first, trade policy and environment policy should complement each other and second, appropriate environmental consideration should be incorporated into decisions when pursuing trading policies, according to Watanabe.

Watanabe, who raised the environmental issue, proposed three principles—putting conditions on trade that domestic measures of environmental protection have already been taken, minimizing the effects of trade limits, and seeking multilateral agreement on such limits.

The other three ministers had "no substantial difference in opinion" on the proposal and agreed the issue should be discussed further within international schemes such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), according to the EC official who attended the meeting.

Regarding trade competition policies, concern was expressed over "extraterritorial" application of U.S. antitrust enforcement policy, the official said.

On April 3, the U.S. Justice Department announced it will, "in appropriate cases, take antitrust enforcement action against conduct occurring overseas that restrains U.S. exports, whether or not there is direct harm to U.S. consumers."

Among other issues taken up at the informal meeting were assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and GATT membership of Russia, China and Taiwan.

Watanabe said the other three officials showed understanding on the idea to support Russia, as well as China and Taiwan, to become GATT members.

The next round of the semiannual quadrilateral meeting will be held in Canada this fall.

Talks End

OW2604035092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT
26 Apr 92

[By Keiko Tatsuta]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref., April 26
KYODO—Top trade officials from Japan, the United States, the European Community (EC), and Canada ended Sunday noon the second plenary session of their informal weekend meeting in this resort north of Tokyo.

U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills, EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen, Canadian International Trade Minister Michael Wilson, and Japanese International Trade and Industry Minister Kozo Watanabe gathered here to seek ways of proceeding with the stalled Uruguay Round of global trade talks.

The participants in the 21st semiannual four-way meeting frankly discussed ways to successfully conclude the five-year-old round under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), according to a Japanese Government source.

Among other issues taken up were assistance to the former Soviet republics and GATT membership for Russia, China, and Taiwan, the source said.

A joint press conference is scheduled for Sunday afternoon to close the three-day meeting which began Friday.

Future of GATT Talks Still Uncertain

OW2604103392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1008 GMT
26 Apr 92

[By Ikuji Nakaya]

[Text] Kitashiobara, Fukushima Pref. April 26
KYODO—The fate of the long-stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations is still up in the air as the world's major economic powers failed to hammer out a major breakthrough in the global talks in a three-day meeting ended here Sunday.

Differences over farm policies are main barriers blocking the 108-nation talks from moving ahead.

As Michael Wilson, Canada's minister of international trade, put it, "agriculture is critical" to reach final resolution in the negotiations.

At a quadrilateral meeting held between April 24-26 in this northern Japanese resort, top trade representatives from the United States, the European Community (EC), Canada, and Japan, all seemed to agree on the significance of ending the talks with haste.

An official at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) that took part in the meeting said he could feel "enthusiasm" to break the impasse, but that "whether there is a wisdom (for a solution), that's a different thing."

Japan's MITI chief Kozo Watanabe, who hosted the 21st four-way meeting, proposed that each country present some offers, even with certain conditions, hoping it would pave the way to break the deadlock.

Analysts say the next target date of concluding the talks, at least for those on farm negotiations, is before the July summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) economic powers to be held in Munich, as the leaders would probably concentrate on possible aid to the former Soviet republics.

But others are more pessimistic, saying that it would have to wait until the November U.S. presidential election is over.

Professor Yoko Sazanami of Keio University projects decisions on agriculture will have to be made between the election and the expiration in early March, 1993, of U.S. President George Bush's congressional "fast-track" authority.

Under the authority President Bush is empowered to seek en bloc congressional approval of Uruguay round-related legislation without revision.

She notes even if players reach an agreement on the farm problem, about two months are necessary to conclude other remaining issues such as talks on services and lowering tariffs.

"But the important thing is not setting up a deadline," Sazanami said, "it's to reach a solution as soon as possible."

The deadlock is a misfortune for Japan, and for all the countries in the world, she added.

Apart from the Uruguay Round trade talks, however, some positive achievements were made.

Beside Watanabe and Wilson, U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills and EC Commission Vice President Frans Andriessen expressed support for future GATT membership of Russia, together with efforts by China and Taiwan to enter the world trade organization.

The ministers also fundamentally backed the idea of protecting the environment, while promoting trade.

As for the trade and competition policy, Japan, Canada, and the EC opposed against the U.S. over its extraterritorial application of Antitrust Law, which became effective earlier this month. Japan called for establishing international rules.

The ministers agreed to continue their negotiations.

G-7 Finance Chiefs Meet To Discuss Aid to CIS

Preparatory Talks Held

OW2504233792 Tokyo KYODO in English 2320 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—Top financial officials from the Group of Seven (G-7) most industrialized nations are to hold a working dinner Saturday night in Washington to discuss aid to the former Soviet Union states, Japanese delegates said.

The discussions are to prepare for their meeting with Russian First Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar on Sunday afternoon, they said.

The G-7 nations—the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada, and Italy—are expected to narrow their gap on ways to help Russia salvage its tattered economy and change to a market-oriented economy.

A senior member of the Japanese delegation to the Washington meeting, however, said there is no basic agreement about aid to Russia, including a proposed 6 billion dollar fund to stabilize the ruble. He called for more clarification of Russia's economic reform programs and other financial problems.

The Japanese delegation is led by Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno.

The G-7 officials are to discuss macroeconomic topics on the Sunday morning on the second day of the weekend meeting before releasing a communique, the officials said.

\$24 Billion Aid Package Proposed

OW2604033792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0318 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—Finance officials and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G-7) most industrialized nations are set to agree on a 24 billion dollar aid package for Russia and the other former Soviet Union republics, Japanese Government sources said Saturday.

The prospect emerged after the top financial officials held three-hour preparatory talks on the top agenda item for Sunday's G-7 meeting at a closed-door working dinner Saturday night.

The package is expected to include creation in June of a 6 billion dollar fund to stabilize the ruble, the sources said.

The officials from the G-7 nations—the United States, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Canada, and Italy—are likely to give a formal green light to 18 billion dollars in financial aid this year to Moscow to help Russia improve eroding balance-of-payments, they said.

Japan, which called for a clarification of Russia's specific economic reform programs as a prerequisite to full-fledged economic assistance, is ready to offer a total of 1.5 billion dollars in assistance, according to the sources.

Russian Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar, who is leading a Russian delegation, is to attend part of the Sunday G-7 meeting to explain the former Soviet republic's economic conditions.

Ministers Agree on CIS Aid Package*OW2604063292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0607 GMT
26 Apr 92*

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 25 KYODO—The seven leading economic powers agreed in principle Saturday on a mammoth aid package to Russia, but will make it conditional on Moscow pressing ahead with radical economic reforms, Japanese officials said.

The top financial and monetary policy makers of the Group of Seven (G-7) countries also reached a consensus on committing to long-term assistance for the former Soviet republics to help them transform themselves into capitalist economies, the officials said.

The G-7 started a two-day meeting of finance ministers and central bankers with a working dinner Saturday evening, which was fully devoted to the issue of aid to Russia and the other republics, a Japanese Finance Ministry official said.

They saw eye-to-eye on the 24 billion dollar aid package to Russia announced by the U.S. and Germany earlier this month, the official said.

However, the G-7 officials decided to make clear to Russian First Deputy Premier Yegor Gaidar, the country's economic reform czar, that the Russians must keep running the reformist path if they want Western cash, he said.

The rich nations' club also agreed to continue its support to the republics struggling to shed the centrally planned economic system and replace it with a market economy, as long as they, too, retain the reformist regimen.

Their plunge into a long-term aid commitment to the former Soviet Union has paved the way for Japan's wholesale financial assistance to Russia, probably ushering in a new era for bilateral relations.

The ministry official said Japan will play an active role in the G-7's helping hand to Russia despite the long-standing territorial dispute that has kept a chill on ties for more than four decades.

The G-7 move is a clear step forward for Japan, which has continued to give a cold shoulder to Russia's plea for large-scale aid. As the group has moved beyond the 24 billion dollar package, Japan will have to review its Russian diplomacy soon.

"Japan should respond to the calls from the republics that are making strenuous self-help efforts," a ministry official said.

The G-7 will work out the details of the aid program at working-level meetings, and will probably present a rough draft to Gaidar when he joins the gathering Sunday afternoon, the official said.

The issue of long-term commitment suddenly sprang to the forefront when U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady told Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata earlier in the day the G-7 nations should consider the aid issue from such a viewpoint.

Brady was quoted by Japanese officials as saying the 24 billion dollar aid program will cover the financial needs for only this year.

The real problem is the years beyond 1992, he reportedly told Hata.

The G-7 will tell the Russians that Western assistance is conditional on Moscow sticking with economic reforms to be agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the ministry official said.

The aid package envisages a 6 billion dollar fund to stabilize the enfeebled ruble and 18 billion dollars in loans and debt relief to cover balance-of-payments shortfalls and enable Russian factories to continue importing essential supplies.

No reliable estimates exist about the real scope of the financial needs of the republics in coming years.

But Michel Camdessus, managing director of the IMF, recently said their financing requirements could easily run as high as 140 billion dollars in the next four years or so.

Some G-7 countries, including the United States, have expressed concern about the possible rolling back of reform in Russia, the ministry official said.

Camdessus warned that any backsliding on the reforms would cost Russia G-7 aid and support from international lending agencies.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin's economic reforms came close to collapse recently when Yeltsin faced a direct challenge to his power from old-line socialists in the parliament.

The G-7 is considering setting up a monitoring scheme over the progress of Russia's reform, the official said.

G-10 Agrees on IMF Lending To Stabilize Ruble*OW2704170692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1603 GMT
27 Apr 92*

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 27 KYODO—The Group of Ten (G-10) industrialized countries agreed Monday to activate a dormant international lending scheme to establish a fund aimed at bolstering the Russian currency, government officials said.

The G-10 gave the go-ahead to tap the General Agreements to Borrow (GAB), a facility under the International Monetary Fund (IMF), to finance a fund aimed at stabilizing the ruble against hard currencies, a Japanese Finance Ministry official here said.

Although the G-10 discussed the issue on the assumption that the fund would amount to 6 billion dollars, the figure could change in future talks, the official said.

The safety net for the ruble is part of the 24 billion dollar aid package to Russia approved by the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries at its meeting Sunday.

The G-10, which actually comprises 11 countries—the G-7 plus the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, and Switzerland—has decided to ask Saudi Arabia, the only non-G-10 contributor to the GAB, to join the effort, the official said.

The G-10 finance ministers and central bankers met here on the first day of semiannual meetings of the IMF and its sister organization, the World Bank.

In providing financing to the ruble stabilization fund, the G-10 set conditions that Moscow implement an economic reform program to be agreed upon with the IMF and adopt a fixed exchange rate, the official said.

It also said Russia should not use the fund to reduce its balance-of-payments gap or to fix the ruble's rate at an artificially high level, he said.

There were differences among the G-10 countries on whether they should also provide financing through the GAB to other former Soviet republics in order to set up similar funds, the official said.

"Large countries were generally cautious about doing so, claiming Russia is a special case, while smaller G-10 countries called for equal treatment for non-Russian republics," he said.

The credits granted through GAB, an addition now worth about 22 billion dollars to the IMF's central loan facilities, are solely for financial assistance to other members of the group.

The G-10 also reached a consensus that it should establish a special "operating committee" to oversee daily management of the ruble fund.

They also asked Russia to coordinate monetary policies among all republics which use the ruble, the official said.

Conference Held To Prepare for Environment Summit

Ministers From Over 53 Nations Attend

*BK2304070892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0514 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Senior officials of 53 developing countries began their meeting here Thursday to prepare the groundwork for their ministers to take up at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June.

The ministers will meet from Monday to hammer out a common stand to be adopted at the Rio summit. Their

three-day meeting here is billed as the second ministerial conference on environment and development.

Forty-three of these ministers in charge of environment last met in Beijing in June last year, where they stated, in no uncertain terms, their concern over the degradation of the global environment and their commitment to act together with the developed or North countries to save the earth.

The senior officials, who are scheduled to meet for three days, are joined by observers from eight developed countries, six international agencies, 12 foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and eight local NGOs.

Among their concerns are seven or eight core issues of the Rio summit. In this respect, they are to assess the progress made in these issues during the last four preparatory meetings (Prepcom) of both the developing and developed countries for the Earth Summit.

Among these issues:

A "World Charter", a high-sounding political declaration that is to be adopted at Rio, to guide the conduct of state and societies concerning issues related to environment.

A global programme of action called "Agenda 21", that is, a concrete programme to halt and reverse environmental degradation of the earth into the 21st century.

A clear and unequivocal decision on new and additional financial resources to be made available to developing countries to finance sustainable development (that is, developments without harming the environment) and resolving problems related to the environment.

A clear decision on the transfer of technology from the North to the South to help the poorer countries in sustainable development and the phasing in of technology that are friendly to the environment.

The setting up of an UN-level inter-governmental institution or structure to oversee and monitor the implementation of the decisions and outcome of the Rio summit.

Chaired by the Malaysian permanent representative to the United Nations, Razali Ismail, the officials are also to work out a document called the "Kuala Lumpur Statement" for their ministers to endorse.

The Kuala Lumpur statement is to embody the aspirations of the developing world on what are to be achieved at the Rio summit.

Malaysia To Launch 'Green' Initiative

*BK2304072092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0325 GMT 23 Apr 92*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 23 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development beginning here Monday will see a Malaysian initiative to get all countries "to green the world."

The initiative, which Malaysia would push for adoption by the developing countries, calls on each country of the world to have at least 30 percent of their land covered by trees.

Malaysian conference sources said the move "to green the world" would be made in a video presentation after the keynote address by Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at the opening of the three-day conference.

The 30-minute video entitled "An Initiative for the Greening of the World", was produced by the Science, Technology, and Environment Ministry.

The conference will be attended by delegates from 53 developing countries and observers from eight developed countries, six international agencies, 12 foreign non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and eight local NGOs.

The Kuala Lumpur conference aims to elicit a common stand by the developing or south countries for the Earth Summit in Rio in June.

The sources said each head of delegation, including those from the NGOs and international agencies would be given a copy of the tape.

Dr. Mahathir requested the ministry to produce the video following smear campaigns mounted by Green movements in the West against Malaysian timber policies and the Penan [tribe] people in Sarawak state.

The "Greening of the World" initiative was voiced by Science, Technology, and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding at the last preparatory meeting (prepcom) in New York earlier this month.

He had said that despite the smear campaign against Malaysia over its tropical forests, 61 percent (or 20 million hectares of the land) of the country was still covered with forests and another 4.19 million hectares were under forest plantations.

He also noted that many developing countries in Africa, Asia, Oceania, and South America would have no problem meeting the 30 percent target of forest cover. They could in fact meet even a 50 percent target.

The situation was different in the developed or North countries. Only 5.7 percent of the total land area in the United Kingdom was covered by forests and in the Netherlands it was eight percent, Denmark (11.4 percent), Australia (13.8 percent), Belgium (21.1 percent) and the United States (28.3 percent).

A Malaysian source said under the "Green the Earth" initiative, the developing countries want the developed North, especially the NGOs, to look at their own backyards first before rapping the poorer countries over logging.

During the prepcom meetings, he recalled that some delegates of the South countries were asking why sugar beet was cultivated in the North when they could import sugar at lower cost from South countries like the Philippines.

They argued that the land used for beet growing could be re-forested if the countries were serious about saving planet Earth from pollution, environmental degradation, and the ensuing climatic changes.

Nations United on Issues, Stance

BK2404065092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0518 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 24 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Developing countries are not divided on the approach to adopt at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in early June, a Malaysian official said Thursday.

Neither were they divided over the core issues yet to be resolved by both the developed and developing countries in the last two and a half years of preparation for the Rio summit, Razali Ismail, Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations, said.

He was speaking at a press conference after chairing the senior officials meeting to prepare for the ministerial conference of 53 developing countries on environment and development beginning Monday.

He said neither the G-77 nor the 53 developing countries attending the Kuala Lumpur meeting were sharply divided on the core issues or on the common approach to adopt at the Rio summit.

What they had to do, he said, was to discuss these issues and approach "with varying degrees of emphasis".

What they had yet to achieve was to narrow down the emphasis to adopt in Rio, he said, adding that the position would become clearer when their environment ministers met from Monday.

Razali said the Kuala Lumpur meeting, endorsed by the G-77, the grouping of all the 129 developing countries in the world, was seen as "an important station" to Rio in that it was to review the progress made so far for the Earth Summit, particularly on the core issues.

U.S. Urged To Attend Earth Summit

BK2504112592 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0611 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 25 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Delegates attending the second ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development here want the United States to attend the Earth Summit in Brazil in June, to show the commitment of developed countries in solving global environmental problems.

Dr. Sofia Vujanac Borovnica, under-secretary of the Federal Ministry of Development of Yugoslavia, said President George Bush should attend the Rio summit and declare the U.S. stand and commitments to resolve the environmental problems because it is evident that developed countries contributed much of the world's pollution.

"We (the developing countries) can't be the only one solving the problems, it has to be supported by developed countries," she added.

Dr. Sofia is here to attend the senior officials-level meeting preparing for the ministerial meeting beginning Monday. The Kuala Lumpur conference is the second by a core group of over 50 developing countries. The developing countries had met in Beijing last June.

To date, it has been reported that the U.S. might not attend the Earth Summit or the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 3.

Yesterday, Malaysian Science, Technology, and Environment Minister Law Hieng Ding said the U.S. would stand to lose more than gain if it did not attend the summit because its presence would mean a lot to the rest of the world.

Dr. Sofia pointed out that U.S. should be the leading country in solving global environmental problems and assist developing nations in financial as well as transfer of technology.

China also shared the same view in calling the U.S. to attend the summit as the U.S. and other industrialised countries are the greatest air and water polluters in the world.

Jian Chew, deputy director of International Organisation Department of the Chinese Foreign Affairs Ministry, said the idea of sustainable development could be attained if the U.S. and other developed nations contribute in terms of financial resources and transfer of technology.

The first secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Conservation of Papua New Guinea, Francis Tike, in wanting the U.S. to attend the summit, said it would give the opportunity for developing countries to negotiate with developed countries on terms acceptable to all parties.

He said the U.S. not only had contributed to the destruction and pollution of the global environment but could be blamed for the depletion of the ozone layer with its space programmes.

Dr. Saleh al-Shara, director of Jordan's Department of Environment, said the U.S. should attend the summit to share the common effort in solving global environmental problems, especially by the developed countries which have the means to do so.

A Kenyan delegate, Elizabeth A. Obvor-Noah said the U.S. should attend the Rio summit as developing countries had "high hopes" of the superpower country playing an influential role in Rio.

"Its presence would mean a lot to the world, especially the developing countries in solving environmental problems," she added.

The Argentinian Ambassador to Malaysia Edvardo Sadous felt that the absence of the U.S. in Rio would not be favourable to the attainment of the Rio objectives which would affect the whole of humanity.

Zimbabwean delegate N.D. Kitikiti said it would be a pity if the U.S. did not attend the Rio summit.

"The meeting will be weaker but even without them, it will go on," he added.

The representative of the African National Congress, Ismail Coovadia, said if President Bush did not attend the Rio summit, "he is not respecting the leaders of the other countries."

Coovadia, who is based here as the ANC's chief representative for Malaysia and Singapore, described Bush's stance not to attend the summit as "pandering" to the present election process in the U.S.

"It is far more important to the U.S., which seems to be controlling a lot of international fora, to be present in Rio in the spirit of cooperation," said Coovadia, who is attending the Kuala Lumpur conference as an observer for the ANC.

He said in attending the Rio summit, developed nations should not tell the developing countries what to do, but facilitate the realisation of the KL [Kuala Lumpur] declaration which represents the aspirations of millions of people of the world "whose lives should not be in the hands of the developed countries."

Conference Opens 27 Apr

OW2704084592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0822 GMT
27 Apr 92

[By Masanori Kikuta]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (KYODO)—Fifty-four developing countries opened a three-day ministerial conference Monday to forge a common stand for a world environment summit to be held in June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Also gathering as observers were delegates from 10 developed countries, including Japan and the United States, and the European Community (EC), which will face Third World nations at the Rio meeting, commonly known as the Earth Summit.

The Kuala Lumpur conference, the second of the kind following one held in Beijing last year, was opened by Malaysia's environment minister, Law Hieng Ding.

Law called on developed countries to stop their wasteful lifestyles before asking poorer nations to join them in a planned global environmental cleanup effort.

Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Datuk Sri Mahathir bin Mohamed, delivering a keynote speech, called for the terrestrial area of the planet to have at least 30 percent greenery by the year 2000, up from the 27.6 percent currently.

He proposed a global fund be set up to finance the greening target through reforestation and afforestation programs, funded mainly by industrialized countries.

"If the environment is going to be cleaned up, those most responsible for polluting it must act," Mahathir said, noting 80 percent of the pollution is caused by the industrialized world.

The latest draft of a declaration, to be issued Wednesday at the end of the conference, says developing countries want to establish a "new global partnership" with industrialized nations so the rich can help the poor attain environmentally sound economic development.

The declaration calls for the partnership to be based on "respect for sovereignty" and "equality," blaming developed countries for environmental degradation and stressing the need for sustained growth of developing nations.

Rich and poor countries remained at odds during recent preparatory talks for the Earth Summit over how to fund a package of programs aimed at fighting environmental problems.

The declaration welcomes an initiative undertaken by industrial nations at a Tokyo meeting earlier this month to finance the programs, estimated to cost 125 billion dollars a year.

But developing countries want "new and additional" funding for the purpose while developed nations hope to use a planned 1.3 billion dollar "global environment facility" as well as existing financing channels, as recommended at the Tokyo meeting.

Warns Against Environmental Terrorists

BK2704055492 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0433 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Some Western non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are increasingly resorting to terrorism in their so-called effort to save the world, Malaysian Primary Industries Minister Dr. Lim Keng Yaik said.

He said a United Kingdom-based NGO, Earth First, for example, had predicted the use of explosives by environmental activists to attack tropical timber depots and stores.

"Earth First which held its first conference in Brighton last weekend believes that militant actions are the only way to achieve its cause," he said when officiating at the national-level 21st World Forestry Day celebration Sunday.

About 50 delegates of the second ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development and several observers from developed countries to the conference, attended the ceremony.

Several members of Earth First were in Malaysia last year where they staged a demonstration against logging in timber-rich Sarawak.

Dr. Lim said the group had claimed such actions gave the activists a sense of achievement.

Tokyo Promises 'Significant' Environmental Role

OW2704110492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan vowed Monday to play a "significant" role in tackling global environmental problems, taking advantage of lessons learned in fighting its own serious pollution in the past.

Shozaburo Nakamura, state minister in charge of Japan's Environment Agency, made the pledge at a three-day ministerial conference of 54 developing countries which ends Wednesday.

"Japan experienced serious environmental pollution in the past and has developed and accumulated various technologies and know-how in the process of overcoming these problems," Nakamura said.

"I believe Japan is able to play a significant role in coping with global environmental issues and this is one of the responsibilities Japan is to assume," he added.

The conference here is designed to work out a common stand among countries of the impoverished southern hemisphere ahead of the U.N.-sponsored Earth Summit scheduled for June in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Expressing his belief that North-South conflicts "must not be repeated in Rio," Nakamura said all countries "must overcome them and make Rio the city of global consensus."

He urged developed countries to "fundamentally change" their growth-oriented industrial culture based on mass production, consumption and disposal into one "more environmentally sound."

At the same time, he called on developing countries to fulfill basic human needs, combat poverty, and curb population growth in pursuing the integration of environment and development policies.

"I believe that sustainable development through integration of environment and development under common but differentiated responsibilities of the countries in the world should be the main concept" of a Rio Declaration to be adopted at the Earth Summit, Nakamura said.

He urged all countries to "seriously" study proposals adopted at a Tokyo meeting of eminent persons from developed nations in mid-April on ways of funding a package of environmental protection programs "in order to reach a consensus on the issue of financial resources in Rio."

"Japan will assume responsibility proper to its status in the international community in the global framework to be adopted at the Earth Summit," he added.

U.S. Urged To Accept CO₂ Curbs

OW2704134792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT
27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan's Environment Agency chief said Monday he agreed in principle with his counterparts from several countries to cooperate in persuading the United States to accept a proposal aimed at curbing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions.

Shozaburo Nakamura made the comment to Japanese reporters after attending as an observer the first-day session of a ministerial conference of developing countries on environment and development.

He met separately with delegates from Australia, Britain, Germany, the U.S., Portugal, Brazil, India, and Malaysia who were in Kuala Lumpur to attend the three-day conference ahead of the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

Japan and the European Community (EC) have officially pledged to freeze their CO₂ emissions in 2000 at their 1990 levels as part of global efforts to prevent the earth's atmosphere from warming further.

But the U.S. has expressed opposition to curbing the emission of CO₂ —a chief "greenhouse gas" source causing global warming—at the cost of economic growth.

"In view of the earth's future, it is important to write an agreement (into an Earth Summit Declaration) on certain CO₂ levels to be allowed," Nakamura said.

Most of the delegates agreed to his suggestion that the U.S. be persuaded to join other countries in reaching such an accord, he added.

Among the delegates were Environment Ministers Ros Kelly of Australia, David MacLean of Britain, and host Law Hieng Ding of Malaysia.

Substance of Final Declaration Cited

OW2704085992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT
27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (KYODO)—Third World countries plan to serve notice on Wednesday that they want a "new global partnership" with rich nations paying to help them achieve environmentally sound development and economic growth.

The call is in the final draft of a declaration to be issued Wednesday at the end of a three-day conference by environment ministers from 54 developing nations. A copy of the draft was made available to KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

The draft, the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Environment and Development," claims rich nations are mainly responsible for global environmental deterioration. The declaration represents a joint Third World stand to be taken at the June 3-14 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The declaration urges developed countries to heed their call for a partnership based on "respect for sovereignty" and "equality" [word indistinct] achieve development.

It calls for far-reaching reforms in the international [words indistinct] of world trade talks, enhanced commodity prices, and avoidance of ecology-based curbs on resources.

The declaration expounds on eight core issues to be raised at Rio, including the question of funding, which has been deadlocked in pre-summit negotiations.

The impasse over funding and technology transfer has held up progress toward agreement on "Agenda 21," a package of environmental programs to last into the next century.

Developing countries prefer new funding schemes over which they have more control but rich countries want to retain existing facilities.

The declaration reiterates the demand for new funds and technology transfer but promises the Third World's "willingness to continue participating in a constructive attitude on issues yet to be resolved."

A new fund should be set up to pay for Agenda 21, the document says. It must be separate from current aid programs, giving equal voice to all countries on project selection and without preconditions.

Existing mechanisms "governed by this criteria" can also be used, it adds, and welcomes a recent Tokyo meeting of developed nations which proposed maintaining current fund schemes.

Some South American countries opposed a new fund at weekend pre-conference sessions, preferring to retain the World Bank-managed 1.3 billion dollar Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which poor nations say represents rich states' interests.

On technology transfer, the declaration says intellectual property rights such as computer programs should not hinder movement of technology to developing countries. It seeks a transfer on "preferential and concessional terms," separate from ongoing technology cooperation.

Referring to conventions on climate change and biological diversity to be signed at Rio, the declaration suggests funds be set up to assist their implementation.

Expressing "deep concern" at the lack of progress in climate change talks, it calls for specific commitments from industrialized countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases and carbon dioxide, which are blamed for global warming.

The United States is strongly opposed to mandating such cuts at the cost of economic growth and President George Bush has said he may not attend the Rio summit.

The declaration asserts the sovereign rights of countries over natural resources related to climate change and biological diversity.

It also calls for a separate fund for biological resources and calls for the convention on biodiversity to be "legally binding" to link access to genetic pools with technology transfer, and to share profits from such material.

Regarding forests, it said developing countries are urging industrial nations to increase their own forest cover and said any Rio decision on all types of forest must be nonbinding.

Developed countries should avoid unilateral actions, such as bans or restrictions, on trade of forest products from poor nations, the declaration says.

Japan Reassures IMF on Stocks, Trade Surplus

OW2704232692 Tokyo KYODO in English 2304 GMT 27 Apr 92

[By Mitsuru Mabuchi]

[Text] Washington, April 27 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata on Monday sought to reassure the world's top financial officials about the frail Tokyo stock market and snowballing trade surplus.

Hata told the Interim Committee of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that although Japanese stocks have been in an "adjustment phase" since they peaked at the end of 1989, "the fundamental strength of the Japanese economy hasn't undergone any change, nor is there any concern that the soundness of Japanese financial institutions or the Japanese financial system as a whole might be undermined."

The government is tackling the task of regaining investors' trust in the stock market and rejuvenating the market through legislative changes to secure "fair and transparent transactions" and to promote "effective and appropriate competition" in the market, he said.

The recent tumble of the Tokyo stock market has created widespread concern about possible ripple effects to other financial markets in the world.

The benchmark Nikkei index has fallen to about 50 percent of its peak of 38,915 on December 29, 1989.

Hata, speaking in the committee's morning session of the first day of a two-day meeting, also said Japan's current account surplus, despite the recent upturn, is still considerably lower than its peak in terms of the ratio against the nation's gross national product.

He dismissed the concern that Japan's surplus may continue to grow, citing the larger imports of finished manufactured goods, Japanese companies' shift of production overseas, and the expected pick-up of the economy. Hata nevertheless pledged to commit Japan's economic policy to achieve growth driven by domestic demand rather than by exports.

Japan's current account surplus doubled in 1991 from the previous year to 72.6 billion dollars, with the trade surplus hitting a record of 103.3 billion yen.

The ratio of the current account surplus to the nation's gnp rose to 2.1 percent in 1991, up 0.9 percentage point from the previous year.

But the Ministry of Finance has been claiming the figure is still quite small compared with the peak of 4.2 percent in 1986.

The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations Sunday called on Japan to boost its domestic demand to curtail the surplus. Hata, however, swiped at the call in the speech, saying rushing to short-term measures to stimulate the economy would be counterproductive since they could create inflationary pressures and expand budget deficits, hampering the long-term prospects for growth.

Japan Asks Two Koreas To Join Medical Project

OW2404153892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1510 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 24 KYODO—South Korean President No Tae-u threw support Friday behind an idea to establish a regional medical organization which would also involve North Korea, Japan's former foreign minister Taro Nakayama said.

Nakayama, who met No at the Blue House presidential residence, sought South Korean participation together with Japan, Russia, China and North Korea in a medical science and treatment cooperation organization to include countries bordering the Sea of Japan.

No indicated South Korea would be willing to participate in the organization, Nakayama said.

Nakayama plans to invite representatives from each of the countries to an inaugural meeting in Tokyo in June.

Malaysia Hosts Asian Defense Exhibition

BK2704174092 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0840 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 27 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The third Defence Services Asia Exhibition (DSA) 1992, featuring the latest hardware in the defence and security industry from 28 countries, was officially opened by Defence Minister Najib Razak here Monday.

The biennial four-day exhibition, described as "the most prestigious defence and security exhibition in the region" has attracted participation from 483 companies from all over the world.

The exhibition also drew interest from top military brass and defence ministry officials from ASEAN and the Asia Pacific region.

Among them were Indonesia's Minister of Defence General (retired) Benny Murdani and its Armed Forces chief, General Try Sutrisno, Singapore Second Defence Minister Dr. Lee Boon Yang and Thailand's Deputy Chief of Staff General Wichit Sukmak.

In conjunction with the exhibition, a two-day conference on "In search of Pacific Asian security" will be held. Speakers at the conference, beginning Wednesday, include former Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone.

Another highlight of the exhibition is the ASEAN Armed Forces golf tournament.

Malaysia's representation in the exhibition is being spearheaded by Malaysian Defence Industries Council

comprising 17 companies involved in aircraft maintenance, shipyard facilities, civilian and military telecommunications, avionics, ordnance and food.

Laos Hosts Indochinese Postal Conference

BK2604155392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Today, Bouathong, minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction, presided over a postal and telecommunications conference of three countries—Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia—convened in Vientiane.

Attending the tripartite conference were the Lao delegation led by Thongsavat Paseut, deputy minister of communications, transport, posts, and construction; the Vietnamese delegation led by Dang Van Canh, director of the Federation of Vietnamese Posts and Telecommunications Corporations; and the Cambodian delegation by (Lat Saly), head of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications of Cambodia.

The three fundamental objectives of this tripartite meeting are: to exchange experience on postal and telecommunications relations among the provinces in the three countries; to consult with one another on utilization of the existing ground satellite stations for more efficient communications; and to consult with one another on future coordination and cooperation in telecommunications work among the three countries. In doing this, expeditious efforts must be made to make more efficient use of the Inter-Sputnik satellite communications stations. At the same time, the conference will discuss ways and means to improve postal services among the three countries, aimed at making them fast and efficient to meet the requirements of consumers.

A Lao postal and telecommunications delegate attending the meeting said: In recent years, the three countries—Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia—have coordinated efforts and assisted one another in establishing telecommunications links by using the Inter-Sputnik communications stations for providing telegram, telephone, and teleprinting services. They have effectively coordinated with each other in providing postal services between Vientiane and Hanoi and between Vientiane and Phnom Penh. Moreover, the three countries have also coordinated with one another in training a number of postal and telecommunications personnel. The Lao delegate also noted that since the establishments of communications relations among them, the three countries have cooperated with each other in an effective and proficient manner. As a result, communications among them have gradually and increasingly improved with every passing day. The increase in the volume of communications has taken place after the two countries—Laos and Vietnam—have broadened cooperation with foreign countries.

Japan**'Top Finance Officials' Leave for G-7 Meeting***OW2504054992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0248 GMT
25 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Japan's two top finance officials left Saturday morning for Washington to represent Japan at a meeting of seven major industrialized nations slated for Sunday, government officials said.

The meeting of Japan, the United States, Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and Canada will be preceded by bilateral talks Saturday between Japanese Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata and U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady.

After the Group of Seven (G-7) meeting, Hata and Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno will take part in a series of international monetary meetings, including one of the policy-making interim committee of the International Monetary Fund, the officials said.

Tokyo Pressed To Ease Curbs on Foreign Lawyers*OW2704133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1315 GMT
27 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills called on Japan Monday to further deregulate its market for foreign lawyers, saying a successful conclusion to the dispute would help correct the trade imbalance.

Hills made the call in a meeting with Justice Minister Takashi Tawara, Japanese officials said.

The officials said Tawara told Hills he will "carefully" study the issue.

The U.S. has pressed Japan to allow foreign law firms to hire Japanese lawyers and jointly operate law firms with Japanese.

An advisory panel to the Japanese Government has recommended that Japan take such market-opening measures as part of its administrative reform.

But the Japan Federation of Bar Associations has resisted the requests.

Itinerary Set for Watanabe's U.S., Europe Trip*OW2704092192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT
27 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—International Trade and Industry Minister [MITI] Kozo Watanabe will tour the United States and Europe during Japan's "golden week" holidays to meet top-ranking officials of other industrial nations, MITI officials said Monday.

Watanabe will leave Japan on Wednesday for Washington to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State James

Baker, new Secretary of Commerce Barbara Franklin, and other top U.S. Government officials.

After a stop in New York, he will visit Canada for scheduled talks with his Canadian counterpart Michael Wilson and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

The MITI chief then will go to London to meet British Trade and Industry Secretary Michael Heseltine and Prime Minister John Major.

On the last leg of his 12-day trip, he will visit Munster, Germany, to attend a May 7-9 gathering of industry ministers from major industrial nations who will seek ways of supporting the morbid economy of the former Soviet republics.

Okinawan Governor Writes to U.S. Officials*OW2704045992 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese
27 Apr 92 Morning Edition p 2*

[Text] Governor Ota of the Okinawa Prefecture has continued to send letters to U.S. Government and military officials, calling for a solution to the military bases issue in view of the 20th anniversary of Okinawan reversion. In a recent letter he said: "This year Okinawa will be marking its 20th anniversary of reversion. Fifty years have passed since expansive military bases were installed in Okinawa. We would like to ask for your cooperation and support in making this year a year of progress for solving military base problems. The people of Okinawa are earnestly hoping to make their island not a 'keystone of the Pacific,' but a 'keystone for peace'."

The governor sent this letter to a total of eight different U.S. Government and military officials. In March, the governor sent it to Secretary of State Baker; Secretary of Defense Cheney; Norman Ehlert, USFJ Okinawa Area coordinator; Lt. General Richard Hawley, Commander USFJ; and Richard Christenson, U.S. Consul General for Okinawa. In April he sent it to Vice President Dan Quayle, Representative Patsy Mink, and Senator Daniel Inouye.

In the letter the governor has also touched on the history of Okinawa. He mentioned that from the past Okinawa has been a peaceful land where people never possessed arms, and that British naval officer Basil Hall recorded in his navigation log the peaceful and friendly nature of the Ryukyuan people. He also mentioned how one-third of the people were killed, how people lost their property, and how geographical features were destroyed as a result of fierce fighting during World War II.

The governor also pointed out that even since reversion in 1972, military bases still occupy a rather large area of Okinawa, impeding economic and industrial growth. Thus, he called for a large-scale consolidation or retrenchment. This action was taken by the governor himself in the hopes of making even the slightest of advances on the military bases problem, but there have been no responses to this letter.

Tokyo, U.S. To Study Laser Defense System

OW2704123492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan and the United States have agreed to study a laser beam defense system in addition to five other military research and development areas already being researched, Defense Agency sources said Monday.

The sources said the theoretical system would measure the distance between an enemy's front vehicle and that of friendly forces by employing laser beams which do not damage the eyes of soldiers.

Japan and the U.S. reached an agreement earlier on the joint study of the laser system in working-level meetings between Japanese and American experts.

Defense Agency and Pentagon officials have also held consultative talks on ways of developing technology in five other defense areas, they said.

Among them are advanced steel for making ships and armored vehicles, as well as new rocket engines for boosting missile speed and range, according to the sources who spoke on condition they not be identified.

The sources said Japan and the U.S. will sign a memorandum of understanding by summer on joint development of the new rocket engines.

NEC-AT&T Venture on Semiconductor Sales Noted

OW2804083792 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 Apr 92

[From "NHK Noon News" Program]

[Text] The Ministry of International Trade and Industry [MITI] today commented on reports that AT&T has decided to set up a joint venture company in Japan, together with NEC Corporation, as a way of expanding sales of AT&T semiconductor products. MITI welcomed it as a deal which will contribute to alleviating the situation when currently there is growing concern about friction flaring up over the semiconductors. AT&T is the United States' largest telephone company and a manufacturer of electronic goods.

The new joint venture company will be capitalized at several hundred million yen, with AT&T contributing 51 percent and NEC 49 percent of the capital. The planned target for company activation is June of this year, and this company will sell AT&T-produced semiconductors in Japan, primarily for cellular phones but also for electric home appliances.

Commenting on this, MITI Minister Watanabe said this is a very good development, adding that he hopes the deal will contribute to expanding imports of semiconductors.

Meanwhile, U.S. Trade Representative Hills commented on this as good news. She welcomed the establishment of the

joint venture company, saying that consumers can get excellent products at low prices as a result of Japan's cooperating with the United States. Now, when the economy is stagnant, it is important that market liberalization be promoted through such ventures, she explained.

In the current Japan-U.S. semiconductor agreement, there is a clause which raises foreign-produced semiconductors in Japan to 20 percent of the total market by December of this year. However, because of the recent economic recession and other reasons, the procurement of semiconductors has not been growing. In the United States there is now a growing mood to demand sanctions against Japan, and it is feared that further economic friction will flare up between Japan and the United States over semiconductors. Given such a situation, MITI wants to welcome the new joint venture company, in which a Japanese manufacturer will provide its own sales network, as contributing to help advance into the Japanese market of foreign semiconductor products.

Tokyo To Extend Curbs on Machine Tool Exports

OW2704112792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan and the United States have completed bilateral talks on limiting Japanese sales of machine tools in the U.S. with an agreement to extend Japan's voluntary export curbs for two more years, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Monday.

The agreement, struck at the end of last week, requires the Japanese Government to keep the share of four types of Japanese machine tools in the U.S. at certain levels by the end of 1993.

The pact came in response to a request made late last year by U.S. President George Bush to have the five-year bilateral voluntary restraint agreement on machine tools with Japan and Taiwan, which expired last year, extended for two years to save American jobs in a crucial election year.

Under the agreement, this year's market share of the four types of machines, used in production of automobiles, appliances, and other products, will be kept at last year's levels.

In line with a U.S. policy of phasing out trade barriers, the share will be allowed to be raised by 0.3 to 2.8 percentage points in 1993.

As a result, the market share of numerically controlled (NC) lathes can be increased next year to 60.27 percent from 57.47 percent and that of machining centers to 54.03 percent from 51.54 percent.

The market share for nc punching and shearing machinery can rise to 21.56 percent from 19.25 percent, and that of NC milling machines to 7.47 percent from 7.17 percent.

In terms of volume, the eased restrictions mean sales of an additional 250 NC lathes, machining centers, and NC milling machines and 14 more NC punching and shearing machines.

A MITI official said the increase should be viewed as "rather generous" for the U.S., whose machine tool market is dominated by Japanese and Taiwan products with domestic makers accounting for only 20 to 25 percent of the total sales.

The formal signing of the agreement has not been set as U.S. negotiations with Taiwan have yet to end, the official said.

Chrysler Loses Seat on Mitsubishi Motors Board

OW2804112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1050 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Mitsubishi Motors Corp. said Tuesday it has accepted the resignation of Chrysler Corp.'s Jeffrey B. Higgs as one of its board directors.

Higgs' resignation will be officially accepted at the annual shareholders meeting on June 26, company officials said.

In March, Chrysler sold half its equity stake in Mitsubishi Motors to cover losses incurred from the slump in the U.S. auto industry brought on by the prolonged recession. The U.S. automaker holds a remaining 5.88 percent interest in the Japanese automaker, they said.

Higgs' resignation makes it the first time since 1971 that Chrysler will not have a seat on Mitsubishi's Board of Directors.

Plans To Help Russian Nuclear Plants Viewed

OW2704162092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1452 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa will inform German Chancellor Helmut Kohl during his visit this week that Japan will help Russia promote the safety of its nuclear power plants and those in Eastern Europe, government officials said Monday.

Miyazawa will also ask Kohl to raise the safety issue at the summit of seven major industrial democracies in Munich in July and as well as at a general meeting of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), they said.

The prime minister will leave Japan Tuesday for talks with French leaders before heading to Germany on April 30. The Japanese leader is scheduled to return home May 2.

Concern over the safety of Russia's nuclear power plants has grown since the Chernobyl disaster in April 1986.

Miyazawa will also brief Kohl on a nuclear cooperation pact signed last year between Japan and Russia.

The agreement obligates Japan to accept about 1,000 Russian nuclear power plant trainees over a 10-year period starting this month.

Japan also pledged to extend 155 million yen in aid to IAEA projects to improve safety at Russia's nuclear power stations.

Watanabe Hints Territories' Return Flexibility

OW2804021592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0200 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe again hinted Tuesday at allowing Russia temporary rule over two of four disputed islands if Moscow accepts Japan's sovereignty over them.

Watanabe told a news conference that Tokyo can be flexible on the timing of the return to Japan of the islands and on treatment of Russian residents there.

Earlier this month, Watanabe said Japan would temporarily grant Russia administrative rights over two of the islands—Kunashiri and Etorofu—after the conclusion of a peace treaty, on condition that Russia confirms Japanese sovereignty over the islands.

The foreign minister is due to leave Tokyo on Wednesday for a weeklong visit to Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan.

In Moscow, he will hold two rounds of talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev on May 3-4 to discuss the decades-long territorial dispute involving Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan, and the Habomai group, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Watanabe said he wants to confirm the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration in which Moscow promised to return Shikotan and the Habomais to Japan after concluding a bilateral peace treaty.

The former Soviet Union retreated from the 1956 pledges after Japan and the United States revised their security arrangements in 1960.

Russia's ITAR-TASS Delays Pact With Firms

OW2704112992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Russia's ITAR-TASS News Agency has postponed the signing of a tripartite cooperation deal with two Japanese firms for undisclosed reasons, one of the Japanese partners said Monday.

Nissho Iwai Corp., a major Japanese general trading house, said the signing of a comprehensive cooperation agreement was to be signed in Moscow last Friday

between the state-owned news agency of the former Soviet Union, Nissho Iwai and Asatsu Inc., a Tokyo-based advertising agency.

Nissho Iwai said the agreement was aimed at helping the news agency expand into new lines of business such as advertising for sponsors and planning events.

The agency's decision was conveyed to representatives of the Japanese partners who went to Moscow to attend the signing, Nissho officials said.

The officials said the news agency apparently prefers to conclude agreements on "a case by case basis" to package deals.

CSFR Ministers Discuss Trade, Investments

*AU2704125492 Prague CSTK in English 1439 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo April 23 (CSTK)—Today Czechoslovak Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy held talks with Japanese officials responsible for international development on offering loans to Japanese entrepreneurs who wish to invest in Czechoslovakia. He said the Japanese have expressed interest in investing in cement and glass manufacturing in Czechoslovakia.

After meeting with representatives from Japan's Finance Ministry, Czechoslovak Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay said the Japanese Government will waive import taxes on a large part of Czechoslovak goods, a move Baksay said was most likely to be put into practice May 1.

Baksay said the Japanese are interested in establishing a fund for developing private enterprise in Czechoslovakia and in financing environmental protection projects in East Slovakia.

CSFR's Havel Continues Visit Activities

Negotiates Trade 'Advantages'

*LD2604162192 Prague CSTK in English 1323 GMT
23 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo April 23 (CSTK correspondent)—Japanese Premier Kiichi Miyazawa today told Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel that his government would grant its system of preferential tariffs to Czechoslovakia beginning May 1 of this year.

Sasa Vondra, Havel's assistant for foreign affairs, told reporters that the two officials also discussed an agreement on the protection of investments, originally scheduled to be signed during Havel's present visit.

So far, however, the two sides have not found common ground on the concrete terms of the agreement. According to Czechoslovak Economics Minister Vladimir Dlouhy, the Japanese insist they be granted the same advantages as the countries of the European Community (EC).

Miyazawa raised the possibility of a 25-year credit from the Japanese Government, at a special interest rate, to be used for environmental projects in Czechoslovakia, Dlouhy said.

Havel, here from April 22-26 on his first visit to Japan since he became president in December 1989, also informed Miyazawa about the progress of Czechoslovak political and economic reforms in the two years he has been in office.

Invites Japanese Investment

*OW2404155192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1441 GMT
24 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Czechoslovakia's President Vaclav Havel invited Japanese participation in his country's economy in a speech at a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday.

Havel said Japan has ascended since the end of World War II "to the top of the pyramid of human civilization" as a result both of the abilities of its people and external economic assistance.

"That is why we would now welcome your assistance, your expertise and advice, your investments and management methods, so that we succeed, like you did, in maintaining the eternal order of things, in which a human dimension would not be missing, even as advanced technologies are brought in," Havel said.

"As a country whose civilization, with its powerful economic potential, possesses this invaluable quality, you now have a great responsibility for the future development of the world and for its humane nature.

"By being present in Europe through your economy, you also have a share in the security and stability of that continent," he said.

Although Havel did not refer directly to Japan's attempts to secure a position as a permanent member of the Security Council at the United Nations, he lent his country's support to a higher Japanese profile in the world body.

"We give our support to the concept that Japan's position and responsibility on the international scene, including the United Nations, should match the importance of your country," he said.

Miyazawa, in a welcoming speech at the banquet, pointed the need for cooperation between Japan and Czechoslovakia.

"With the end of the East-West confrontation, we must dedicate ourselves to the building of a new order appropriate to a new world based on freedom and democracy," he said.

Meets With Parliamentarians

*LD2604162692 Prague CSTK in English 1008 GMT
24 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo April 24 (CSTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel today met with the speaker of Japan's parliament House of Councillors, Yuji Osada, and the speaker of the House of Representatives, Yoshii Sakurauchi.

Opening the second day of his official visit to Japan, Havel met earlier in the day with representatives of the parliament's Japanese-Czechoslovak Friendship League.

The president's assistant Alexandr Vondra told CSTK the Japanese deputies were particularly interested in the outcome of talks on Czechoslovakia's future state setup, linking it to interest in Japanese investments in Czechoslovakia.

The talks on the future form of a common state of Czechs and Slovaks started in 1990 without producing any results up to now. There are strong separatist tendencies in the Slovak Republic, the eastern of the two constituent parts of Czechoslovakia.

Later today, a new Czechoslovak-Japanese trade agreement is to be signed to replace the one dating from 1959.

Bidden Farewell by Emperor

*OW2504053492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0311 GMT
25 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited the Akasaka State Guesthouse on Saturday morning to bid farewell to Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel and his wife Olga.

The imperial couple met the Havels for 20 minutes, imperial household agency officials said.

Havel reportedly asked the emperor and empress to visit Czechoslovakia, the officials said.

The Havels then headed for the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan, where they are to stay Saturday night. They will visit Nara, another ancient capital south of Kyoto, on Sunday before heading for Seoul via Osaka.

Havel, the first Czechoslovakian president to visit Japan, is on a five-day official trip.

Comments on Visit, Cooperation

*LD2604150192 Prague CSTK in English 1333 GMT
26 Apr 92*

[Text] Nara April 26 (CSTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel today stated it was necessary to create political prerequisites for economic cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Japan which was the major aim of his official visit to Japan.

Speaking with CSTK in the Japanese city of Nara before ending the visit which opened April 23, Havel voiced the belief that Japanese investments will soon start coming

to Czechoslovakia. He added, however, that "some businessmen in Czechoslovakia do not realise the Japanese way of thinking and the Japanese style" which require that "certain ceremonies take place before an agreement is signed."

Havel emphasised that the Czechoslovak state delegation was received in Japan with "extraordinary kindness and attention", and voiced the belief that the economic talks held in the course of the visit will soon yield concrete results.

Leaves for ROK 26 Apr

*OW2604091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0825 GMT
26 Apr 92*

[Text] Osaka, April 26 KYODO—Czechoslovakian President Vaclav Havel ended a five-day visit to Japan on Sunday when he flew from Osaka to South Korea.

Havel, a former playwright, was the first Czechoslovakian president to visit Japan since democratic reforms ended communist rule in his country in 1989.

Earlier Sunday, Havel toured the ancient Japanese capital of Nara, where he saw a massive bronze Buddha statue inside the world's largest wooden building, Todaiji Temple. He also saw Kasuga Shrine, which was founded in 709 by the Fujiwara family.

During the Japan visit, he met with Emperor Akihito, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi.

At a meeting with Miyazawa on Thursday, the two leaders discussed Czechoslovakian support for Japan's bid for observer status at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Japan's offer to dispatch a governmental environmental mission to Czechoslovakia, and further Japanese investment.

Havel was accompanied on the visit by his wife Olga and Foreign Trade Minister Jozef Baksay.

Prime Minister Departs for Germany, France

*OW2804091292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0855 GMT
28 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 (KYODO)—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa left Tokyo Tuesday for a five-day visit to France and Germany.

On Wednesday, Miyazawa will meet French Prime Minister Pierre Berezgovey to discuss issues focusing on such bilateral problems as trade and hold a summit meeting with President Francois Mitterrand over lunch at the president's official residence.

Miyazawa will travel to Bonn on Thursday to meet with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Miyazawa will return home on Saturday.

Effects of Cuts in Car Exports to EC Viewed

OW2704102392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0936 GMT
27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—The recently-announced reduction in Japan's car exports to the European Community (EC) this year will not affect the bilateral agreement to freeze Japanese car sales there during the seven years from 1993, a senior government official said Monday.

Vice Minister for International Trade and Industry [MITI] Yuji Tanahashi told a press conference that the Friday announcement on 1992 car sales will not force a change in the bilateral scheme, agreed last year, to limit Japanese auto exports to the region at 1.23 million vehicles a year from 1993-1999.

The ministry announced Friday that Japan will slash 1992 car exports to the 12-nation trading bloc by some 6 percent from last year to 1,185,000 vehicles to give breathing space to European car makers facing a slump in demand.

With the 1992 ceiling below the 1.23-million-a-year level, concerns are emerging that Japan may be forced to further lower the limit specified by the seven-year pact.

Daiei, PRC Firm To Open Store in Beijing

OW2404144592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1340 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Osaka, April 24 KYODO—The chairman of Daiei Inc. on Friday announced a plan to build a large department store in Beijing jointly with China International Travel Service.

Isao Nakauchi, chairman of Japan's largest supermarket chain operator, told reporters the team wants to build the projected 13 billion yen store, to include restaurants, on the capital's main shopping street of Wangfujing.

If the Chinese Government approves the project, the two partners will draw up a detailed construction plan, Nakauchi said, adding that such details as the date for starting construction and the size of the department store have yet to be worked out.

Nakauchi said the Chinese side last year asked him to open a large-scale retail store.

The projected department store would be China's first major department store affiliated with foreign interests.

Over 30 Koreans To File War Compensation Suit

OW2804114592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1115 GMT
28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Over 30 South and North Korean residents in Japan are preparing to file suit in the Osaka District Court against the Japanese

Government to seek compensation for damages and sacrifices suffered during World War II, their defense counsel said Tuesday.

The plaintiffs include at least two surviving former civilian employees of the defunct Japanese Imperial Army as well as the bereaved families of dead employees who were forced to work in Makin and Tarawa Islands in the South Pacific when the islands were under Japanese rule during World War II.

The compensation suit, which could be filed as early as May, is the first of its kind to be filed jointly by South and North Koreans, the defense counsel said.

The Japanese Army took the Koreans to the islands between late 1941 and early 1942. They were forced to work on the construction of air bases there until the United States attacked in 1944, the counsel said.

Japanese soldiers forced the employees to fight against the U.S. forces that attacked the islands, according to the counsel.

Yugoslav Envoy Stresses Maintaining Strong Ties

OW2804100092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0947 GMT
28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 (KYODO)—Yugoslav Ambassador to Japan Ranko Radulovic on Tuesday expressed hope the newly proclaimed Federal Republic of Yugoslavia would maintain longstanding relations with Japan.

Radulovic said at a news conference in the Yugoslav Embassy that he met Monday with senior Japanese Foreign Ministry officials who he said wished for "good and friendly relations with Yugoslavia," after Serbia and Montenegro established the new republic.

He said the Japanese officials advised all parties involved in the Yugoslav crisis to "stop the war, stop shooting, and try to find a solution peacefully."

If a peace agreement is reached by all sides, the Japanese officials reportedly told Radulovic, Tokyo may recognize the new republic that was endorsed Monday by the Serbian-led Yugoslav Assembly.

Commenting on the meeting with Radulovic, a ministry official said the Yugoslav envoy "did not ask for Japan's recognition (of the new republic)."

In a statement before his news conference, Radulovic, who comes from Montenegro, said, "The very fact of the formation of the transformed federal Yugoslav state within the borders of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro confirms that it has no territorial claims against others."

He said the new republic will abide by potential agreements from negotiations in Brussels directed by Lord Carrington, a former British foreign secretary and secretary general of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Yugoslavia, a leader of the nonaligned movement, opened diplomatic relations with Japan in 1952, becoming one of the first European countries to do so after World War II.

Parliamentarians League Launched With Hong Kong

OW2404085892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—A suprapartisan Japan-Hong Kong Friendship Parliamentarians League, which seeks to deepen amity with the British colony even after its scheduled reversion to China in 1997, was launched here Friday.

Finance Minister Tsutomu Hata leads the league with some 80 members from the Liberal Democratic Party, Social Democratic Party, Komeito, Democratic Socialist Party, and the United Social Democratic Party.

Hata will lead a delegation of league members to Hong Kong on May 2 for a four-day visit.

Tokyo To Host Second Mongolian Aid Conference

OW2704133892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1316 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Japan will host the second international conference in Tokyo on May 28-29 on aid to promote democracy and a free market in Mongolia, Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada said Monday.

Mongolian Prime Minister Dashiyn Byambasuren is also expected to attend the conference, Owada told reporters. Japan and the World Bank will serve as co-chairs for the second year running.

Owada indicated that the government may surpass last year's pledge of 50 million dollars in aid to Mongolia.

A total of 115 million dollars in aid was offered to Mongolia last year to help transform what was the world's second-oldest communist state.

BT Firm To Expand Asia Global Network Service

OW2704103592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—BT Japan, a subsidiary of British Telecommunications (BT) PLC, said Monday its parent company plans to expand its global network services for business users in the Asian-Pacific region by the end of the year.

The investment, valued at 500 million dollars, is part of BT's worldwide expansion program for managed data networks which provide electronic mail, data interchange, transaction, and other services between companies in different countries.

The telecom firm is expanding the global network services because of demand by multinational businesses and liberalization and deregulation of national communications markets around the world, company officials said.

The company also will supply a new high-speed data communications network which operates with BT's global network services and can transmit up to two million bits of information per second, they said.

The services will be introduced into Singapore and other countries by the end of 1992, they said. BT currently serves Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, and Australia.

The Asian-Pacific market is expected to be the fastest growing region worldwide over the next two years and is forecast to reach 640 million dollars by the end of 1993, they added.

Miyazawa Reiterates 'Flexible' Position on PKO

OW2704174592 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Speaking at the House of Councillors' plenary session today, Prime Minister Miyazawa reiterated the government's willingness to be flexible on the question of revising the UN peacekeeping operations [PKO] bill once again, but insisted that even when a revision is made, participation of the Self-Defense Force [SDF] troops in the PKO is a must.

In the upper house plenary session today, Mr. Tetsu Noda of the Democratic Social Party of Japan [DSPJ] presented the party's bill aimed at replacing the government's PKO bill. He explained that the bill proposed setting up a permanent international peacekeeping force organization for employment in international cooperation activities. He added that active or reserve SDF members should not be allowed to participate in it.

In the interpellation that followed, Prime Minister Miyazawa spoke on the question of another and a final revision of the PKO bill. He said that he thinks the draft bill presented by the government is the best one, but admitted that the government must respect the right of the legislature to revise a bill—from the viewpoint of respecting the separation of the three powers. He thus reiterated the willingness to be flexible about another revision of the bill.

Mr. Miyazawa then said that when considering the question of securing safety for the people sent to Cambodia, it is necessary that the SDF troops participate. Even when a revision of the bill is considered, Japan's participation must be a contribution that can meet the UN requirements promptly and appropriately, thus including the participation of SDF troops, he insisted.

He thus stressed that even in another revision of the draft bill, the participation of the SDF troops would be unavoidable.

Later on, the DSPJ's bill was also explained to the House of Councillors' Ad Hoc Committee for Cooperation in International Peace. The committee session resumed for the first time in four months, since last December. There currently are varying views on the PKO question—Komeito wants to withhold for the time being the participation of Japan in the peacekeeping force (PKF), and the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP] insists that the Diet's prior approval should be made a principle in sending the PKF overseas. All parties and floor groups are expected to have a heated debate on the bill, with their eyes on the progress of the negotiations underway between Komeito and the DSP.

While the above activities went on in the Diet today, negotiations among the parties were brisk. SDPJ Chairman Tanabe and Rengo Sangiin Representative Hoshikawa agreed in a meeting that for Japan to make international contributions, a permanent organization that is separate from the SDF should be formed for that purpose. In the meeting, they agreed that the government PKO bill has problems because it envisages sending SDF troops overseas. They exchanged views on the future of Japan's cooperation in the PKO and emergency aid activities. Consequently, they agreed that a permanent organization should be formed separately from the SDF for that purpose, and that even when such an organization is sent overseas, it should still have the prior approval of the Diet.

DSP Chairman Ouchi and Socialist Democratic Federation Representative Eda also met to discuss the question. They talked about the government PKO bill, and agreed that they should cooperate in having Komeito's proposal on freezing the PKF realized in one way or the other. In the meeting, both sides agreed that the DSP-requested condition of prior Diet approval for dispatching of troops overseas should be accepted into the bill. They then agreed that Komeito's position on freezing the PKF should also be accepted.

Speaking about it later in a news conference, Chairman Ouchi said that a specific way on how to freeze the PKF is a task to be worked out in negotiations among the parties. He thus expressed understanding on Komeito's wanting to freeze the provisions on the PKF in the PKO bill.

On the question of the command channel for troops to be dispatched, Chairman Ouchi said the grand principle is that they come under the auspices of the United Nations. It will not make sense if only Japan refuses, he said. But judgment on when to begin participation in the PKO, and when to end such participation, is a question to be taken care of by the United Nations and Japanese diplomatic authorities. He said that that question has nothing to do with the question of who has command over the troops.

Watanabe Says UN Should Command PKO Troops

*OW2804091692 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[From "NHK Noon News" program]

[Text] Speaking at the House of Councillors' Ad Hoc Committee on Cooperation in International Peace, which resumed deliberations today, Foreign Minister Watanabe referred to the question of command over troops sent on peacekeeping operations [PKO], saying troop activities will come completely under the United Nations once the government and the United Nations have agreed on their specific activities in advance.

The upper house Ad Hoc Committee on Cooperation in International Peace resumed its session today for the first time in four months to deliberate on the government's bill regarding UN PKO cooperation and the Social Democratic Party of Japan's [SDPJ] bill aimed at replacing it.

Mr. Osamu Yatabe of the SDPJ, during interpellation in the morning session, brought out the question of who will command troops sent on PKO missions, noting that according to the government's official view the United Nations merely has a right to direct [sashizu] the activities of troops, and the right of command [shikiken] remains with the Japanese Government, which also has the right to discipline troop members. Relating the government view, Mr. Yatabe noted that when troops are mobilized for disaster relief or fire fighting operations within Japan, under Japan's law the authorities employing the troops have shikiken even though they have no right to discipline the members. He insisted that hence the government's view is wrong and should be withdrawn.

In reply to that, Foreign Minister Watanabe said the local commander of the United Nations has a right to control assignment and activities of the dispatched troops. He explained that this right is expressed as sashizu [in Japanese] and is called command in English. He then stated as follows:

[Begin Watanabe recording] The Japanese Government and the United Nations will meet and arrive at an agreement on operational plans in advance. In other words, there will be a preliminary arrangement so that troops will not engage in any activities which are in conflict with the Constitution, even when they come under the command of their commander. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Watanabe then explained: To put it simply, they will come under the commander's command. After all, it is only natural that the dispatched troops should come under the commander's command once there has been agreement on conditions for their activities.

He thus gave his view that once the government and the United Nations have confirmed in advance the conditions of troop activities, the troops will come under the command of the United Nations for operations and assignment.

SDP Head Hints at Flexibility on PKO Bill

OW2404154992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The leader of Japan's No. 1 opposition party hinted Friday at a flexible approach to a government-proposed bill aimed at expanding Japan's role in United Nations peacekeeping activities.

Makoto Tanabe, chairman of the Social Democratic Party [SDP], said "it's wrong to discuss at this moment about the outcome...we will wrestle with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to the end."

Tanabe made the comment at a meeting with leaders of the party's provincial chapters in response to voices of opposition to the SDP's agreement to open debate on the peacekeeping operations bill in the House of Councillors on April 27.

The bill, already cleared by the House of Representatives, would allow Japanese Self-Defense Forces troops to join U.N. peacekeeping forces abroad.

At Friday's meeting, Tanabe said, "we will make utmost efforts (to prevent passage of the bill) without changing our basic stand."

However, the SDP leader's remarks seemed to hint that the party would deal flexibly with the government and the Liberal Democratic Party on the bill, depending on [words indistinct] deliberations, political sources said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa reaffirmed his hopes for enactment of the bill in a meeting with Koko Sato, chairman of the LDP's decision-making Executive Council.

"By enacting the bill during the current Diet session, Japan could join in international peacekeeping operations," Miyazawa was quoted as saying.

The bill was passed through the LDP-dominated House of Representatives during the Diet's previous session last year.

But it was carried over to the current session for further discussion in the opposition-controlled upper chamber.

A meeting of the ruling and opposition parties agreed to start discussing the peacekeeping operations bill in a plenary session this coming Monday and at a special committee the following day.

Following an 11-day recess in the Diet until May 5, the committee will resume full-fledged discussions on May 6, officials said.

DSP, Rengo on Conditional PKO Bill Approval

OW2404121292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1048 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Leaders of two minor opposition parties said Friday they have agreed to require

Diet approval in advance if Japanese troops are to be sent abroad to join United Nations peacekeeping forces.

Keigo Ouchi, head of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), told a news conference he reached the accord during a meeting with Yasumatsu Hoshikawa, leader of Rengo Sangiin, an affiliate of Japan's largest labor organization Rengo.

Ouchi said the two parties have agreed to help pass a government-proposed bill on expanding Japan's role in UN peacekeeping activities provided an amendment made requiring the prior legislative approval.

The two men agreed on the need to enact the bill during the current ordinary session of the Diet, due to last through June 21, Ouchi said.

The peacekeeping operations bill, which cleared the House of Representatives last December, is pending at the opposition-controlled House of Councillors.

Ouchi's DSP holds 10 seats in the 252-seat upper house, and Rengo Sangiin has 13. The governing Liberal Democratic Party and No. 2 opposition party Komeito support the bill, while the largest opposition Social Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party oppose it.

The combined strength of the LDP, Komeito, DSP, and Rengo Sangiin in the upper house is 157 seats, well above a simple majority.

Ouchi said the DSP and Rengo Sangiin want the bill passed to show what he called Japan's "resolute" contribution to the United Nations in the post-cold war era.

The bill to allow Self-Defense Forces personnel and civilians to join UN missions will become law only after approval by both houses of the Diet.

Ministry To Create Office for Expatriate Safety

OW2704150792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1412 GMT
27 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—The Foreign Ministry on Monday responded to an increasing number of attacks on Japanese living and traveling overseas by deciding to establish a post in its missions responsible for the safety of Japanese expatriates and visitors.

Assignees to the new post, consul in charge of policies for the safety of Japanese, will gather information on conditions that will have an influence on the welfare of Japanese nationals and be in contact with the host nations' governments to ensure their safety.

The post will be set up in 164 embassies and consulates, excluding missions to international organizations and consular offices, with ministers and consular officers assuming the duties.

Confronted with kidnappings and murders of Japanese in Central and South America, the ministry will summon

eight of its ministers to New York for a meeting May 12-13 to discuss ways to strengthen its policies for protecting its citizens.

The ministry also indicated it would like to create a "Safety Policies Council" in liaison with private Japanese organizations overseas for closer communication.

Poll: Demand for Drastic Election System Reform

OW2604171692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] A poll conducted by NHK found that about half of the Japanese public want a drastic reform of the election system—such as the introduction of a single-seat constituency system—to settle the problem of the inequality that exists for each vote's potential for representation.

NHK conducted interviews with 3,600 people on 7-8 March on issues related to the constitution and obtained responses from about 70 percent of the pollees.

Asked about the current disparity in the number of votes per representation, 47 percent of the pollees answered that it is not desirable but still acceptable, and 34 percent said that it is unacceptable.

In response to a question asking tangible measures for settling the disparity, 46 percent wanted drastic measures for election system reform, such as an introduction of a single-seat constituency system. On the other hand, 32 percent of the respondents supported minor reforms under the current election system. While the majority group thus urged drastic reforms, the remaining 22 percent were still undecided on the direction of the election system reform.

When asked if Article 9 of the Constitution, which renounces war and regulates the use of the Armed Forces, is helpful for maintaining Japan's peace and security, three out of four Japanese think that the article is helpful; 31 percent said that it is very helpful, and 44 percent said that it is slightly helpful.

On a question about the need for constitutional revision, 35 percent wanted revision; 42 percent said no to any revision; 12 percent were undecided; and another 12 percent did not answer.

Council: Value of Import, Export Contracts Down

OW2804103792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 (KYODO)—The value of export and import contracts signed by Japan's major trading houses fell in the fiscal year ended March 31 from year-earlier levels, reflecting economic weakness in and outside Japan, a trade group said Tuesday.

In fiscal 1991, export contracts shrank 7.0 percent to 14.78 trillion yen, the first decline in three years and

fresh evidence of a global economic downturn, the Japan Foreign Trade Council said in a report covering its 19 member companies.

Import contracts showed the first drop in five years, falling 9.7 percent to 17.09 trillion yen in a decline caused by a domestic economic slowdown and lower crude oil prices, it said.

Council officials blamed the slump in export contracts largely on a decline in export contracts to the United States and Southeast Asia, two of Japan's major export markets.

The weak exports to the two regions offset double-digit growth in export contracts to China, the Middle East and Latin America, they said.

On the other hand, import contracts fell in almost all regions as a fall in crude oil and nonferrous metal prices dragged down the value of imports from the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

By category, export contracts were pulled lower on many products, excluding automobiles and vessels, which showed gains of 6.1 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

But export contracts to industrial plants plunged 24.9 percent in a decline magnified by large deals made on petrochemical plants with Nigeria and Indonesia a year ago.

On the import side, contracts to machinery, including aircraft, aircraft parts and mainframe computers, grew swiftly, showing an 8.8 percent gain.

The council also reported export contracts signed in March alone sagged 8.6 percent, chiefly because of sluggish contracts to industrial plants and machinery.

Import contracts concluded in March fell for the ninth consecutive month, sliding 18.8 percent on slack transactions in almost all categories except foodstuffs and textiles, it said.

Steel Exports Rise 'First Time in Seven Years'

OW2804113192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Japanese steel exports rose for the first time in seven years in fiscal 1991, posting a 4.8 percent rise to 18,095,000 tons, the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said Tuesday.

Federation officials attributed the rise to a slight decline in the value of the yen from its high levels.

They were quick to point out, however, that the level of exports was extremely low, sinking even below the levels posted in fiscal 1970, when exports were at the 18.75 million ton level.

Steel exports to Taiwan surged 47.7 percent in fiscal 1991 to 2.41 million tons, while those to South Korea rose 9.6 percent to 1.94 million tons. Shipments to Southeast Asia were brisk during the financial year, they said.

Exports to the United States fell 17.7 percent to 2.65 million tons, down for the fourth year in a row.

The federation also announced that total steel exports in March climbed 3.0 percent to 1.72 million tons.

Steel imports in fiscal 1991 edged up 0.5 percent to 12.66 million tons, rising for the fifth successive year.

Steel imports in the January-March quarter dropped 35.8 percent to 2.11 million tons.

Imports in March plunged 46.0 percent to 508,000 tons due to the impact of the country's economic slowdown, they said.

Auto Output Drops First Time in Five Years

OW2404084692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0834 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Stagnant domestic sales forced Japanese auto manufacturers to cut production in fiscal 1991 for the first time in five years, an industry association reported Friday.

The Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association said output of cars, buses, and trucks for the year which ended March 31, fell 3.3 percent from the previous year to 13,145,742 vehicles.

It also said output in March fell 0.2 percent from a year earlier to 1,176,030 vehicles for the fourth consecutive year-on-year decrease.

In fiscal 1991, Japanese companies cut passenger car production by 2.7 percent from the previous year to 9,717,141 for the first drop in seven years.

Production of trucks fell 5.1 percent to 3,382,229 but production of buses increased 13.6 percent to 46,372.

Association officials attributed the decreased passenger car sales to a slump in consumer spending because of the economic slowdown, as well as a shortage of parking space in big cities.

They blamed the lower truck sales on the slumping construction and trucking business.

In March, Japanese automakers rolled out 880,524 cars, up 3.1 percent from a year earlier, the first year-on-year rise in four months.

Output of trucks in March was down 9.1 percent to 290,775 while bus production was up 15.4 percent at 4,731.

Investment Rise Planned by Big Five Steelmakers

OW2404141792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1302 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Aggregate capital investment by Japan's five major steelmakers will show a high 9.1

percent rise in fiscal 1992 over the previous year, according to their investment plans released by Friday.

The companies, Nippon Steel Corp., NKK Corp., Kobe Steel Ltd., Kawasaki Steel Corp., and Sumitomo Metal Mining Co., plan to invest a total of 913 billion yen during the year.

The amount is the third biggest on record, and the first to exceed 900 billion yen since fiscal 1976 when the companies' aggregate investment reached 1,157.1 billion yen.

This year's surge is due mainly to planned large-scale investment by NKK. Investment by Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal and Mining will remain flat, while that by Kobe Steel and Kawasaki Steel will actually decline by about 6 percent from the previous year's level.

According to company officials, most of the planned investment will go to facilities aimed at improving product quality while overall output is reduced.

NKK says most of its investment will go into new zinc coating facilities for sheet steel used in automobile bodies and home electrical appliances.

The steel companies forecast that investment will remain at relatively high levels in fiscal 1993, starting April next year, among other reasons because of the expected need to improve facilities to minimize environmental pollution.

Following are estimated investments made by the big five steel companies in fiscal 1991 and planned investments for fiscal 1992, in billions of yen with year-on-year percentage changes in parentheses:

	FY '91	FY '92	change
Nippon Steel	200	200	(—)
NKK	121	218	(80.2)
Kobe Steel	186	175	(- 5.9)
Kawasaki Steel	160	150	(- 6.3)
Sumitomo Metal	170	170	(—)
total	837	913	(9.1)

Twenty-One Banks Report Securities Losses

OW2404140692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1314 GMT
24 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Twenty-one leading Japanese banks reported Friday their total appraisal losses on securities at the end of March was up 4.8-fold from a year earlier to 1,296.6 billion yen.

The reports by the leading commercial banks, long-term credit banks, and trust banks showed that losses skyrocketed amid the serious slump of the Japanese stock market.

The securities and exchange law requires banks to disclose appraisal losses on securities when they exceed 30 percent of the banks' pretax profits.

The 11 leading commercial banks, known here as "city banks," reported total appraisal losses of 831.2 billion yen on securities, 4.9 times the figure in March 1991.

Among them, Sanwa Bank reported losses of 145 billion yen, 6.5 times the year-earlier figure, Tokai Bank 54.7 billion yen, 11.3 times, and Fuji Bank 95.4 billion yen, 8.1 times.

Appraisal losses totaled 213.5 billion yen for the three long-term credit banks, 4.2 times the March 1991 figure, and 251.9 billion yen for the seven trust banks, 5.2 times.

The Finance Ministry reported Thursday that the 11 city banks' net business profits from core banking business in fiscal 1991, ended March 31, was up 28.9 percent from the previous year to 1,884.2 billion yen.

However, pretax profits at the banks fell 16.9 percent to 1,378.2 billion yen.

Analysts said the pretax profits fell due in part to increased write-offs of bad loans and appraisal losses on securities.

Long-Term Prime Rate To Stay Unchanged in May

*OW2404143492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1409 GMT
24 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—Japan's three long-term credit banks have decided to leave their long-term prime rate unchanged in May at 6.0 percent per annum, due to strong opposition against its rise from the Finance Ministry, a banking industry source said Friday.

It will be the third month for the long-term prime rate to remain unchanged.

The three banks are the Industrial Bank of Japan, Nippon Credit Bank and the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

Earlier this month the long-term credit banks were considering they might have to raise the coupon on their May issue of five-year interest-bearing bank debentures by around 0.3 percentage point from 5.1 percent per annum, according to the source.

If such a move materialized, the May long-term prime rate could mount to 6.3 percent, as it is customarily set 0.9 percentage point above the coupon rate on the bank debentures.

However, the Finance Ministry has expressed strong opposition to a rise in the long-term prime rate, saying it would have an adverse effect on the already faltering domestic economy which the government is trying to stimulate by various pump-priming measures.

The ministry's intervention was "unusually" forthright, with measures ranging from negative remarks by high-ranking officials to repeated interventions in the market through its sinking fund, according to the source.

As a result, the long-term credit banks have decided to leave the coupon on May issue five-year interest-bearing bank debentures unchanged, despite the fact that the market yield on the April issue has risen to 5.45 percent, the source said.

The decision has, however, left a negative feeling in the market, he added.

MAINICHI Papers Expect 1.2 Billion-Yen Loss

*OW2404090392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0851 GMT
24 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 24 KYODO—The MAINICHI newspapers on Friday named managing director Tadao Koike as president to replace Noboru Watanabe, company officials said.

Watanabe is retiring to take responsibility for the 1.2 billion yen loss the newspapers are expected to post for fiscal 1991, which ended March 31, the officials said.

The newspapers' sales for the year are expected to fall 3.5 billion yen from the previous year to 167 billion yen, due in part to a 5 percent decline in advertising revenues, the officials said.

Firms Polled on Government Working-Hours Target

*OW2804114492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT
28 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 KYODO—Only 18 percent of firms polled said their employees work less than 1,900 hours a year, which is close to the government's target of 1,800 hours, according to a survey conducted by Japan Development Bank [JDB].

The survey, which focuses on the reduction of working hours, was conducted on 2,698 firms and 1,735 companies responded to it, JDB officials said.

A similar poll taken last December showed that 76 percent of the firms surveyed said they were drafting plans to shorten the working hours, they said.

Some 37 percent of the respondents which had said they were drafting such schemes said they were making no progress in implementing them.

The firms cited the labor shortage and a desire to see how their industry as a whole is dealing with the problem as reasons why they have not been able to cut working hours.

DA, Transport Ministry View Pilot Regulations

*OW2504105392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1040 GMT
25 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 25 KYODO—The Defense Agency [DA] has agreed to double to 30 its quota of pilots allowed to quit the Air Force and join private airlines each year, well below the numbers actually recruited by the airlines, agency officials said Saturday.

In exchange, the Transport Ministry agreed to call on airlines to refrain from headhunting the most skilled pilots of the Air Self-Defense Force (ASDF), the officials said.

The agreement also calls for lowering the minimum age of ASDF pilots allowed to quit to "around 37" from the existing range of 40-45, they said, a standard also previously ignored by airlines.

In 1991 alone, 127 ASDF pilots—many of them in their 20s and 30s—were recruited by private airlines, according to Ko Banno, Director of the agency's first personnel division.

Banno said the accord is aimed at preventing the airlines from recruiting Air Force pilots without any voluntary restraints.

Under the new accord, the official quota will be further expanded from 1993, the officials said.

Since a 1962 pilot-sharing agreement, the agency has officially allowed 496 ASDF pilots to be recruited by airlines, they said.

The airlines need more skilled pilots as international and domestic flight routes grow, industry analysts said.

They have been pleading with the government to increase the annual quota, saying many of their pilots will reach retirement age in a few years, the officials said.

JAL Employee Selected as Second Astronaut

*OW2804091192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT
28 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 28 (KYODO)—The National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) said on Tuesday that it has chosen an airline engineer as a Japanese astronaut to take part in the construction of a manned space station involving the United States, European nations, Canada, and Japan.

The National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) said Koichi Wakata, a 28-year-old staffer of the Engineering Department of Japan Airlines Co., will participate in space development programs in the United States.

NASDA said he will participate in a project called "Freedom."

Wakata, who received a master's degree in applied dynamics from Kyushu University, was picked to become part of the space shuttle crew. His team is expected to be sent to work on the space station around 1997 and he will be assigned to the assembly of Japanese experimental modules, NASDA officials said.

The engineer is the fourth Japanese to be named as space specialists and second Japanese scheduled to make a space flight. Mamoru Mori, a physicist, is slated to be on board a space shuttle later this year.

Officials said Mori will make the flight as a payload specialist while Wakata will carry out his assignment as a mission specialist.

NASDA'S Screening Committee met Tuesday and chose Wakata from six candidates after studying comprehensive reports of medical examinations and vocational aptitudes administered at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States, officials said.

The construction of the manned space station is expected to start in 1995 and completed around 2000. The station will be placed in orbit at an altitude of 400 kilometers.

Space station crew members will be engaged in scientific experiments with new materials using microscopic gravity, and in life science and astronomical observation.

Wakata will be the first Japanese to be used as a mission specialist and part of his duties will include space walks. Mori will carry out experiments only inside the shuttle, NASDA officials said.

Wakata was one of the 372 people, including 41 women, who applied for NASDA recruitment last June. He was one of six finalists selected in January.

Nissan To End CFC'S in Manufacturing Process

*OW2704112892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1059 GMT
27 Apr 92*

[Text] Tokyo, April 27 (KYODO)—Nissan Motor Co. said Monday it has halted the manufacturing use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in order to prevent further destruction of the earth's ozone layer.

Japan's No. 2 automaker said it has stopped using CFCs to clean automobile parts.

CFCs are used as refrigerants, cleaning solvents, and aerosol propellants and in the manufacture of plastic foams.

Nissan is the first Japanese automaker to announce the elimination of CFCs from its manufacturing process.

Several years ago, the firm used as much as 1,500 tons of CFCs annually but will be able to reduce the amount to around 1,000 tons through its latest move, Nissan officials said.

Regarding the use of CFCs as a refrigerant for its automobile air conditioners, the officials said the firm plans to use a substitute in all models by late 1994.

North Korea

North-South Exchange Subcommittee Meets

3d Meeting Detailed

SK2704153592 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1508 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Panmunjom April 27 (KCNA)—The third meeting of the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held in camera in the South side's portion of Panmunjom today.

At the end of the meeting, Kim Chong-u, the North side's chairman, briefed reporters on it.

At the meeting, our side pointed out that the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee which started its work on March 18 reached an agreement on a series of matters in the course of discussion, and gave a detailed account of the fact that both sides, however, showed differences over the matters of principle.

Our side clarified its stand toward the meeting.

Our position concerning how many annexed agreements should be drafted is to make one based on the basic agreement and set some chapters in the annexed agreement by accepting the South side's assertion.

Considering as unacceptable the unreasonable argument made by the South side as regards the annexed agreement that the persons concerned with cooperation and exchange should be those who "got permission from the authorities", our side demanded that if the South side feels the need to do so for some reason, it may do it internally and made it clear that as for the matter of setting up a consultation office and an information exchange office at Panmunjom, it may be discussed at the joint committee, if necessary.

Our side stressed that the "legal and institutional mechanisms" that stand in the way of free travel and contact between members of the nation must be eliminated and the matter of alleviating the sufferings of dispersed families and relatives should be left to the Red Cross organisations, the bodies responsible for it, so that it may be discussed and resolved there.

Urging the South side to accept our offer to link and operate roads and railways in transport according to the "elimination of the military confrontation", our side said this is a realistic proposal which took the present situation between the North and the South into consideration.

This time, too, our side put forward a new draft of the annexed agreement.

Next, our side stated our side's opinion on the matter of the agreement on the formation and operation of the joint committee.

Our side proposed that the number of joint committees should be two—a joint committee in the economic field and

another in the socio-cultural field and as for the procedures through which to effectuate provisions of the agreement on the joint committees, our side held that it should be signed by the chairmen of both sides for its effectuation.

Entering the discussion of the basic question at the meeting, both sides coordinated their views on the question over which they had differences and agreed upon adjusting and arranging drafts beginning with the first article of the "3. North-South Cooperation and Exchange" from the North-South agreement. [sentence as received]

In the discussion of whether to specify the words "authority permission" in the annexed agreement or not, our side said that "authority permission" is not fit for the nature of cooperation and exchange and it may be exploited for a political purpose of authorities. Our side stated that it is unacceptable to bind the work of cooperation and exchange under the North-South agreement to the "Law on South-North Exchange and Cooperation" made by the South side at the time of confrontation.

The South side, while expressing sympathy with the just opinion of our side, did not consent to delete the words "authority permission" from the annexed agreement.

The South side accepted our side's proposal to discuss the matter of establishing Panmunjom consultation office and information exchange office at the joint committee.

As for our side's call for abolishing proposed to abolish the "legal and institutional mechanisms" made in the discussion of the matter of free travel the South side insisted on debating it at an infeasible "juridical joint committee" and thus the discussion was shelved.

Discussing the matter of separated families, our side held that old man Yi In-mo, former war correspondent of the Korean People's Army, should be allowed to go back to his native village without delay, but the South side turned it down under an unreasonable pretext.

At our side's proposal, it was agreed to transfer the discussion of the annexed agreement and the formation and operation of the joint committee to the contact of its members, scheduled to be held on April 28.

4th Meeting Detailed

SK2804104592 *Pyongyang KCNA in English*
1028 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Panmunjom April 28 (KCNA)—The fourth contact between members of the cooperation and exchange subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held behind closed doors in the conference room of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission today.

After the contact, Son Chong-chol, member of the North side to the subcommittee, told reporters that the South side repeated its old unreasonable assertion in its modified draft at today's contact.

The South side insisted on setting up three joint committees dealing with economic, social, and communication and traffic fields, and specified the humanitarian matter in the agreement on the formation and operation of the joint committee and proposed to report even the points of agreement at the joint committee to the high-level talks.

The North side's logical argument compelled the South side to withdraw its assertion to form the communications and traffic joint committee and its proposal to report the points of agreement at the joint committee to the high-level talks.

But, the South side put it forward conditionally to include the humanitarian problem in a separate provision.

The North side made it clear that the humanitarian problem is a matter that should be included in the annexed agreement, having nothing to do with the formation and operation of the joint committee.

In the discussion of the annexed agreement, the South side expressed its approval of the North side's proposal to make the annexed agreement a single one.

South Policy on Security Law, Accord Berated

*SK2804051792 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0442 GMT 28 Apr 92*

["Act Against Reconciliation and Unity"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 28 (KCNA)—The "Justice Ministry" of South Korea manifested the position of the "government" that the "National Security Law" [NSL] of South Korea and the adoption of the inter-Korean agreement are "separate issues" and that "there is no need to change the law" even though the agreement has been adopted.

NODONG SINMUN today brands this as a revelation of the intention of the South Korean authorities to reduce the historic inter-Korean agreement to a mere sheet of paper, keep to the anti-communist, anti-reunification road and suppress the patriotic national democratic forces desirous of independence, democracy and reunification by invoking the anti-reunification fascist law, and as an open treachery to the North, a partner to the agreement.

The news analyst says:

If the provisions of reconciliation, nonaggression, cooperation and exchange of the inter-Korean agreement are to be carried into effect, the North and the South must discard the outdated policy of antagonism and confrontation, realise great unity of the nation, transcending the differences in ideology and social system and take steps to pull down the ideological and institutional barriers that hinder national reconciliation and unity.

The South Korean rulers intend to maintain the "National Security Law" which defines the northern half

of the country as an "anti-state organisation", claiming that there is no need to change it even after the adoption and effectuation of the inter-Korean agreement. This is an open violation of the inter-Korean agreement and is as good as declaring that they will not implement the agreement. This shows that they are following the anti-national policy of the defunct "Yusin" dictator who met his doom while persistently pursuing a policy of anti-communist confrontation and division after trampling underfoot the July 4 joint statement in the early 1970s.

Lurking behind their argument that there is no need to change the vicious anti-communist fascist law is their scheme to ensure the "security" of their "government" by keeping South Korean society bound to the anti-democratic, anti-reunification colonial fascist fetters.

The South Korean authorities must look straight at the trend of the times, immediately abolish the anti-national, anti-reunification "National Security Law" and release at once all the visitors to the North and pro-reunification patriots including Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and woman Student Yim Su-kyong imprisoned unreasonably.

South Korea

Exchange Subcommittee Fails To Reach Agreement

*SK2804081992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0803 GMT 28 Apr 92*

[Text] Seoul, April 28 (YONHAP)—South and North Korea failed to iron out differences on the formation and operation of joint commissions to spur exchange and cooperation Tuesday but agreed to continue their negotiations at the seventh high-level talks, opening in Seoul on May 5.

In the fourth contact of the inter-Korean subcommittee for exchange and cooperation at the truce village of Panmunjom, South Korea reiterated its call to form three joint commissions to deal with economic matters, social and cultural subjects, and travel and telecommunications.

North Korea stood firm on its call for the formation of two commissions, one on economic matters and the other on non-economic concerns.

Concerning the procedure of effectuating documents the two sides adopt in joint commissions, South Korea said the documents should be signed by the prime ministers of both sides while North Korea opted for the chairmen of the commissions.

In their contact on Monday, the two sides agreed to make each commission of nine members including a chairman who is a minister or a vice minister.

The two sides also agreed to hold regular meetings four times a year at Panmunjom, Seoul or Pyongyang and, if deemed necessary, to operate a channel for working-level consultations joined by specialists.

Group Asked To Show Proof of Vote Fraud Charges

SK2504071292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0309 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 25 (YONHAP)—The Defense Ministry has asked the Citizens' Coalition for Fair Elections to produce the documents that it claims are related to the organized vote rigging that the coalition alleged took place in military barracks, a Ministry official said Saturday.

The Ministry denied the coalition's allegation Thursday [23 April] that a list of 574 "seditious" publications had been sent to military units before the 14th National Assembly elections on March 24.

"Investigation has found that only one document was distributed to the units under the command of the Third Army for 'healthy management' of the troops. The document on education of soldiers for healthy management of units was formed in stages in February and October last year," the official said.

He said the document was formed by the command's intelligence section and had nothing to do with the election management carried out by the personnel division.

Opposition parties, in unison, called on the government Friday to unveil the truth and take punitive action against the people involved in writing and circulating the "politically tainted" documents.

"Such acts constitute a serious crime, infringing upon the freedoms of press, publication, academic pursuit and conscience provided by the Constitution. They are also an insult, denying the rights of the soldiers armed with a democratic sense of order," Rep. Chang Sok-hwa, spokesman for the Democratic Party [DP], said.

Cho Sun-hwan, spokesman for the Unification National Party, said the documents had added disappointment in the military and that his party had strongly demanded the government and the military authorities present the truth and punish those involved in the illegal acts.

The Ministry official said the Ministry distributed to units a list of 977 "enemy-benefitting" books for prohibition in August 1991 and that list was different from the one the citizens' coalition had made public.

"The military discipline law prohibits the public disclosure of military documents or official letters. The person or persons who provided the coalition with the list will face punishment whether the list was a fabrication or not," he added.

Rep. Kwon No-kap, a Democratic Party member of the National Assembly Defense Committee, argued Friday that the guidelines on election-related business were clear proof of military vote-rigging.

In a written inquiry sent to Defense Minister Choe Sae-chang, Kwon said the list of books betrayed the retarded thinking of the "political officers" by defining DP co-leader Kim Tae-chung's "The 1970s I Walk

Through" as a book justifying violence and calling his "With the Nation, With the People" and Kim Yong-sam's "Me, My Country and the Truth" books that disturbed social stability.

UNP Head Welcomes Separating Business, Politics

SK2804035892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 28 Apr 92 p 2

[From the "Out and About" column: "'Belated' Decision Welcomed"]

[Text] Chong Chu-yong, leader of the opposition Unification National Party [UNP], yesterday welcomed what he called President No Tae-u's "belated" decision to end the corrupt links between politics and big business.

"The President's emphasis on the need to sever the links comes belatedly; nonetheless, I welcome it," Chong said in a meeting with party officials.

During a luncheon meeting with business leaders at Chongwadae Saturday, President No said he was determined to cut off the politico-business collusion.

It is not clear whether Chong's gesture signals a truce in the confrontation between the government and the Hyundai Business Group, party sources said.

During a golf gathering with business leaders Sunday, Chong did not take his brother's apology toward President No for Hyundai's involvement in politics seriously, the sources said.

Chong Se-yong, a younger brother of Chong and chairman of the Hyundai conglomerate, apologized for Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong's entry into politics at Saturday's Chongwadae meeting.

UNP leader Chong told business leaders Sunday that his younger brother was just making an apology "out of decorum," the sources said.

UNP officials have claimed that the government has been plotting against Hyundai before the presidential election later this year, in an attempt to wreck the UNP.

Chong left Hyundai late last year to launch the UNP. He is still a major stockholder of the group.

He said he entered politics to sever the collusive links between politics and big business among other things.

Despite his pledge, Chong has been accused of using Hyundai resources during the campaign for the March National Assembly elections. He has contended that the government imposed the corrupt links upon big conglomerates, so the government should take the initiative to put this practice to rest.

Commercial, Long-Term Credit Banks Changing Roles

SK2604045092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 27 Apr 92 p 10

[By staff reporter Yi Chang-sop]

[Text] Korea's two long-term banks—Korea Development Bank (KDB) and Korea Long-term Credit Bank (KLB)—are likely to go separate ways in line with the recent breakdown of high walls separating commercial and long-term banking markets in Korea.

A Finance Ministry [MOF] official predicted that KDB will penetrate into the domestic market.

He noted the state-run KDB will play the role of financing strategic industries and an international investment bank in the future. But the private-run KLB will ultimately become one of Korea's commercial banks in the future.

His prediction is based on the recent development in the Korean banking market that sees a gradual tearing-down of the high wall dividing commercial and long-term banking markets.

Korean commercial banks, which deal mostly in loans with maturity of 1-3 years, have been muscling into the long-term banking business, an area monopolized by KDB and KLB.

Last year, the revision of the commercial banking bill, known as the General Banking Act, enabled commercial banks to float long-term bonds although none of them were allowed to do so far.

Furthermore, the government considered extending the maturity of certificates of deposit (CDs) beyond the current limit of 180 days. If the maturity of CDs is extended beyond one year or more, CDs would be equivalent to long-term bonds issued by KDB and KLB, analysts said.

CDs issues have been monopolized by commercial banks but a few years ago, the government also let two long-term banks—KDB and KLB—float the short-term money market instrument with a minimum denomination of 50 million won. Thus this one sign that the business turf between commercial and long-term banks has been mixed, analysts said.

Both KDB and KLB were permitted to deal in a limited range of commercial banking business, including deposit-taking from the general public since last year.

"I don't know when Korea will see a complete blurring of the business boundary between commercial and long-term banks but the trend is clear. Even in Japan, barriers between commercial and long-term banks have been tumbling," said the MOF official.

Probably, within the next five to six years, KLB will become part of the commercial banking system, he noted.

Although he acknowledges KLB will become one of the commercial banks handling a full range of banking business, he said he is not sure whether the state-owned KDB will become part of the commercial banking system.

KDB as a state-run bank, has a special role to finance Korea's strategic industries. As a window for Korea's foreign capital introduction, KDB must become one of international investment banks, he noted. If Korea accumulates a trade surplus, it is the KDB which should utilize the reserves in overseas investment, he noted.

Many professors propose that the state-run KDB should take over all policy-based loans from the private commercial banks so that private commercial banks can conduct a profit-oriented banking business. As the government's bank, KDB should continue to expand policy-based loans to strategic industries even at the risk of losing potential earnings, they said.

But KDB had made a knee-jerk reaction to the idea of letting the bank act as the manager of policy-based loans, arguing "why should our bank become a garbage collection center."

Korea's commercial banks have policy-based loans equivalent to 40 percent of their outstanding loan portfolios. These policy-based loans have been a constant hindrance to efficient and profit-oriented business operations for the "private" commercial banks in Korea.

To ensure the self-sustaining development of the Korean banking market, two state-run banks—KDB and Industrial Bank of Korea, formerly known as the Small and Medium Industry Bank—have no choice but to work as managers of policy-based loans, analysts said.

The government cannot let the private KLB expand policy-based loans to strategic industries, they said.

It is still unclear whether KLB will be merged with the newly-established Hana Bank when KLB becomes part of the commercial banking system. Hana Bank, which was established last year through business conversion, was subsidiary of the KLB. From last year, the two became rivals.

Both KLB and Hana Bank may be operated as separate commercial banks or the two might be merged before KLB becomes part of the commercial banking system, analysts speculate. If Hana Bank is unable to stand on its own feet in the over-crowded domestic banking market, KLB will easily take over Hana, they noted.

Both KDB and KLB have become diversified financial conglomerates in Korea. They have extended themselves into a full range of financial services, except for insurance.

KLB, the brainchild of Korea's private capital and World Bank, kicked off its business 25 years ago. Now it controls seven financial services firms in Korea.

In Korea where banks and non-banking business are strictly separated, KLB is enjoying both banking and non-banking business through its subsidiaries.

Its financial services encompass banking, securities leasing, credit card, investment advice and venture capital.

The bank is not controlled by conglomerates. Its shares are widely diversified.

KDB has also muscled into securities, credit rating leasing, merchant banking, and technology financing. KDB is 100 percent owned by the government.

Agricultural, Fish Imports Widen Trade Deficit

SK2604044792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 26 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Agricultural and fishery products has proved to be one of the major culprits widening Korea's trade deficit.

According to the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry, their trade recorded a \$3.95 billion shortfall last year on a customs clearance basis.

The figure accounted for 41 percent of the nation's global trade deficit amounting to \$9.68 billion last year, the highest ever.

The comparative setbacks in trade of agricultural and fishery goods were \$400 million in 1987 and \$2.3 million in 1989.

The ministry said that exports of agricultural and fishery products last year stood at \$2.98 billion, down 5 percent from 1989.

But their imports rose as much as 26 percent from \$5.48 billion in 1989 to \$6.93 billion.

The ministry said that imports of cheap and low quality Chinese products sharply increased last year.

Specifically, Korea suffered a \$800 million deficit in trade of agricultural and fisheries goods with China, double over 1990.

The figure also accounted for nearly 20 percent of Korea's aggregate shortfall in trade of agricultural and fishery goods last year.

Last year, China accounted for 15 percent of Korea's imports of agricultural and fishery products.

The ministry said that China emerged as the second largest exporter of agricultural and fishery goods to Korea, just behind the United States and superseding Australia.

First Ever Shipment of Goods Via China Noted

SK2804040092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 28 Apr 92 p 8

[Text] Hanjin Shipping Co. will become the first national shipping line to carry container cargoes to Mongolia, the Hanjin group said yesterday.

The company shipped 16-20-foot containers of relief goods in Bangladesh on April 24 and they will be transported to Tianjin via Singapore and Pusan. From Tianjin to Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, the goods will be carried by railway.

The transportation is meaningful in the fact that it will pass through China for the first time, official said.

Russian Scientists Working in Research Institutes

SK2704235392 Seoul CHOSON ILBO
in Korean 24 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] An ROK Government source said on 23 April that 35 Russian Republic scientists have signed medium- or long-term joint research contracts that stipulate more than three months of service with some ROK research institutes.

A Science and Technology Ministry official said that eight Russian Republic scientists were already working in ROK research institutes: one at Seoul National University, two at Samsung Electronics, two at the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and three at the Korea Aviation and Space Institute.

Three scientists from Russia's Central Aviation and Space Institute (TsAGI), who are working at the Aviation and Space Institute, are involved in the transfer of state-of-the-art airplane design technology to the ROK. An official of this ROK institute said that because they are involved in the transfer of software application technology known as (Argon), if they continue the joint research for two to three years, our country will acquire basic airplane design technology, a mid-level technology.

Sunkyoung Industries, Samsung Aviation Industries, Korean Air, Daewoo Heavy Industries, and other private companies are also participating in joint airplane design research. This research will provide a turning point in the sluggish domestic aviation industry.

Effects of No Tae-u's Northern Policy Examined

SK2504033292 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES
in English 25 Apr 92 pp 5, 6

[Text] The successful implementation of the northern diplomacy, which was launched four years ago with the inception of the Sixth Republic, is vividly demonstrated by the visits to Seoul of President Borisav Jovic of Yugoslavia and President Arpad Goncz of Hungary, both in November 1990, President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union in April 1991, and President Vaclav Havel of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic scheduled for three days from tomorrow.

Inasmuch as South Korea's diplomatic relations were confined to the Western bloc and neutral states prior to the establishment of the Sixth Republic, its international economic exchanges also has to be restricted to one half of the world. Now, however, South Korea's diplomatic horizons have been expanded worldwide to cover nearly all socialist states. The international situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula has also improved to such an extent that it will now be possible to establish a new Northeast Asian order of reconciliation and cooperation.

The peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula—the ultimate goal of the northern diplomacy—has become a practical issue, not just the political slogan it seemed to be when it was first launched. It is worthwhile, therefore, to review the background and achievements of the northern diplomacy at this time.

The pursuit of a northern diplomacy was one of No Tae-u's major campaign pledges when he was running for president in 1987. In his Special Declaration in the Interest of National Self-Esteem, Unification and Prosperity, issued on July 7, 1988, shortly after his inauguration, President No made it clear that he would endeavor to improve relations with the Soviet Union, China and other Communist states in East Europe so as to help speed the attainment of unification. His declaration meant, in fact, that he would try a roundabout way to reach Pyongyang because it was impossible to get there directly. He intended to get to Pyongyang through Moscow, Beijing and other socialist states in East Europe inasmuch as North Korea had put up an iron-tight wall around the country.

July 7 Declaration

At the same time, President No hoped to begin building a prosperous South-North Korean national community as a preliminary step toward unification. In his July 7 Declaration, President No said efforts would be made to discontinue confrontation on the international scene, to cooperate in ensuring that North Korea makes a positive contribution to the international community, and to promote the common interests of the whole Korean nation. President No also called for improved ties of North Korea with the United States and Japan and of South Korea with the Soviet Union and China. To this end, South Korea set up four major targets of the northern diplomacy:

First, South Korea will diversify its diplomatic ties from the United States, Japan and other Western states to all the rest of the world so as to strengthen the international stature of South Korea.

Second, diplomatic relations with northern (socialist) states will be improved and through increased exchanges and cooperation with these states North Korea will be induced to open and reform so as to ensure peace on the Korean Peninsula and thus speed up unification.

Third, economic exchanges and cooperation will be expanded to northern countries so as to help sustain long-term development of the national economy.

Fourth, South Korea will contribute to the maintenance of world peace and the prosperity of mankind—as it has already done with the successful hosting of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

End of Cold War

Following World War II, Korea was divided as a result of an inability of the United States and the Soviet Union to come to an agreement. Two separate governments were established, one in the South and the other in the North. This was followed by the outbreak of the tragic Korean War on June 25, 1950 which finally ended with the Korean Armistice in 1953. Korea still remains divided, the sole nation in the world that has yet to be unified in spite of the collapse of the Cold War regime. Unification remains the ultimate goal of the Korean people.

South Korea, therefore, must endeavor to establish and maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula for which it needs to build mutual reconciliation, confidence, exchanges and cooperation with the North, eventually leading to peaceful unification. To this end, South Korea has established short-, medium-, and long-term plans, taking into consideration changes in the international scene related to the Korean Peninsula. The northern diplomacy was first declared by President No on July 7, 1988, and reaffirmed in an address before the U.N. General Assembly on October 18, 1988. The policy had one of its first successes with the attendance of nations from both the East and West in the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988.

As the final goal of our northern diplomacy is to foster national self-esteem, prosperity and peaceful unification, we should regard North Korea not as an adversary but as a partner in pursuing prosperity. Therefore, our position is that we must maintain friendly and cooperative ties with the North while promoting a closer relationship with the socialist countries which are close to it.

In addition, there can be no change in our basic position that the unification issue should be resolved independently by the Korean people. However, the hard reality is that enduring peace on the Peninsula is unthinkable if the situation in neighboring countries is not heeded. By normalizing relations with neighboring nations, we can help open up the closed society of the North and bring them into a dialogue. The Government knows well that the northern diplomacy can be a success only when we have secured close cooperation and understanding from our allies. The northern diplomacy has made remarkable progress in a short time in part because of the rapidly changing situation in the Communist bloc. Korea has normalized diplomatic relations with nearly all the East European countries: First Hungary in February 1989, followed by Poland (November 1989), Yugoslavia

(December 1989), Czechoslovakia (March 1990), Bulgaria (March 1990), Romania (March 1990), the Soviet Union (September 1990), and Albania (August 1991).

Reduction of Tension

Korea has many things in common with these socialist countries, because they also suffered as a result of the Cold War after World War II. The waves of democratic reforms and openness washing over these countries, which have had close ties with North Korea for the last 40 years, will surely accelerate changes in the North. This is expected to lead ultimately to a reduction of tension on the Korean Peninsula and the creation of favorable conditions for unification.

We established full diplomatic relations with Mongolia, one of the socialist nations in Asia, in March 1990. We have also expanded trade with China since the exchange of trade representative offices in January 1991. We expect we will normalize ties with China in the not-too-distant future.

This year we agreed to exchange liaison offices with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, proving that we are accomplishing the same diplomatic success in the Asian region. Now we have full diplomatic relations with 163 countries, a sharp increase from the 127 countries with which we had diplomatic ties before the Sixth Republic was inaugurated. North Korea has formal diplomatic relations with 123 countries.

Expansion of Foreign Markets

Our diplomatic thrust into nearly all the socialist countries of the world has helped expand our foreign markets,

diversify sources of imports, and give us access to the basic and high technologies possessed by these countries. The greatest achievement of our northern diplomacy, however, is a growing stability on the Korean Peninsula, laying a firm foundation for unification.

The northern diplomacy finally led to the simultaneous entry of the two Koreas into the United Nations in September last year. This will provide North Korea a chance to play a positive role in the world community, as it has pledged to abide by the U.N. Charter. U.N. membership may pressure the North to look at the changes in the world and adjust its policies realistically. The northern diplomacy has also brought the North to the negotiating table to sign the intra-Korean Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Exchanges and Cooperation, which we hope will lead them to take a positive attitude even on the nuclear issue. Now there are channels of intra-Korean dialogue through which the Korean issues can be resolved by the initiative of the Koreans themselves. The ROK's efforts to consolidate friendly ties with the CIS and upgrade relations with China will pave the way for the peaceful unification of Korea.

As President No pointed out in a speech upon returning from Moscow on December 17, 1990, there are no more obstacles in our path to peace and unification, thanks to the northern diplomacy. The northern policy has changed the location of Korea on the map. Due to the Cold War, Seoul was a terminus for Western airlines, but now it has become a center for air traffic, connecting the U.S., Japan, the CIS and China. The whole world from Siberia to Eastern Europe has become an arena for our activities. The Korean people can now make concerted efforts to achieve peace and unification with hope and confidence.

Cambodia

Son Sann Eight Day Visit to Australia Previewed

BK2804063092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, will arrive in Australia today for an eight-day official visit. Gareth Evans said in a statement yesterday that H.E. Son Sann, head of the KPNLF, was visiting at the Australian Government's invitation.

He said H.E. Son Sann's visit would enable discussions on a whole range of issues on the Cambodian peace settlement to take place, particularly trade and investment and also Australia's aid program for Cambodia.

He said H.E. Son Sann's visit was opportune following the recent establishment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia.

H.E. Son Sann is scheduled to have talks in Canberra with Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Treasurer John Dawkins, Defense Minister Robert Ray, and Industry Minister John Button, as well as a number of senior parliamentarians and members of the conservative opposition.

H.E. Son Sann will also meet business leaders and members of the local Cambodian communities in Sydney and Melbourne.

Japan's SDP Mission Arrives for Visit

OW2604142292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1201 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 26 KYODO—A four-member mission of the Social Democratic Party [SDP] arrived in Phnom Penh Sunday in a bid to probe into possible Japanese emergency aid for Cambodian reconstruction.

House of Representatives member Chuji Ito, head of the SDP group, said at the airport, "We'd like to question related officials here about a possibility of U.N. peace-keeping cooperation by dispatching Self-Defense Forces personnel as part of a separate nonmilitary peace cooperation corps."

Ito said that during a five-day stay in the capital, the mission is scheduled to meet Premier Hun Sen, National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim and others, including a chief of the military section of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

He added they are going to investigate possible Japanese aid based on the previous survey made by a SDP mission last January headed by party Chairman Mokoto Tanabe.

Japan's House of Councillors is scheduled to resume debate on a controversial bill on U.N. peacekeeping cooperation next week. The lower house passed the bill last December.

The SDP is opposed to the government-proposed bill and instead proposes to establish a separate nonmilitary cooperation corps to join U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Army Chief of Staff Greet Lao Counterpart

BK2604094692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] On the traditional new year of the Lao people, His Excellency General Pol Saroeun sent a congratulatory message to Lieutenant General Ai Souli-ngaseng, deputy defense minister and chief of staff of the Lao People's Army. The message says in essence:

Dear Lieutenant General: On the traditional new year of the fraternal Lao people, on behalf of cadres and combatants of the Cambodian People's Army General Staff and in my own name, I would like to express most sincere congratulations and best wishes for success to the Lao People's Army, and especially to cadres and combatants at the General Staff office of the Lao People's Army. May they score brilliant successes [words indistinct].

Once again, I would like to wish you all the best in the traditional new year. May you enjoy good health and lead the army to score greater successes. Through you, [words indistinct] good health, energy, and longevity. May the relations of solidarity and friendship and cooperation between our two armies and people, particularly between our two General Staff offices, [words indistinct].

Please, Lieutenant General, accept my high considerations.

Response to European FUNCINPEC Members Noted

BK2404052192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] On 21 April His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, and H.E. Hun Sen, chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of Ministers, sent a message of thanks to some architects of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC] in various European countries, such as Chuop Chantha and Seng Kuy, FUNCINPEC members in the Federal Republic of Germany; Pol Chhom and Seng Sovat, FUNCINPEC members in the Federal Republic of Austria; Tea Eav-ho and Kang Ven, FUNCINPEC members in Belgium; Chea Saophoan, Princess Norodom Diate, and Sok Chamkanarith, FUNCINPEC members in France; Hem Daret, Um Lun, and Soy Sang-huo, FUNCINPEC members in the Netherlands; Kang Sena, Svay Sukun alias Meas Sokha, and Khuon Bunna, FUNCINPEC members in Switzerland; and Khek Lerang, Chhom Morita, Khek

Vandi, Tan Vatha, Chea Sokhan, Khek Sokha, Pech Kim-eng, Kim An, Uk Vutthi, Sek Sam-iet, and To Mok.

The message reads: Excellencies, Princess, gentlemen: We have received with pleasure the message dated 18 April announcing your wishes for cooperation and stressing the need for all of us to unite as a single body to rebuild the country, follow the policy of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, father of the Cambodian nation, head of the State of Cambodia, and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, and carry on the Sangkum Reas Niyum [Popular Socialist Party] policy of the prince father. We highly appreciate your goodwill to cooperate with the CPP and SOC Government in serving the correct and just cause of consolidating peace, stability, and national reconciliation and building an independent, peaceful, free, democratic, neutral, and progressive Cambodian motherland.

We warmly welcome the sympathy and noble wishes of your excellencies, your highness, and all of you to cooperate with the CPP and SOC Government in the spirit of national reconciliation.

Please accept our highest and most cordial regards.

[Signed] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP; Hun Sen, chairman of the SOC Council of Ministers

FUNCINPEC Official Comments on UNTAC Appeal

BK2704125792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] His Excellency [H.E.] Yu Hokkri, secretary general of the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] office in Phnom Penh and adviser to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of the FUNCINPEC party, said last Tuesday that the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] had proposed that all Cambodian factions make more vigorous efforts in stimulating the Cambodian people to exercise their rights in a democratic election.

His excellency said that the effort to invite as many people as possible to register for the election constituted an important factor in deciding the number of deputies for each province.

H.E. Yu Hokkri said that the UNTAC would set up 800 electoral registration offices throughout Cambodia. Therefore, each faction should station its representatives there as witnesses.

His excellency informed Mr. Austin [not further identified] that the FUNCINPEC promised to closely cooperate with the UNTAC to promote an environment of equality, freedom, and democracy in Cambodia.

Refugees Return From Indonesia; Given Money

BK2404060092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0411 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 24—Sixty Cambodian boat people spent Thursday trying to meld themselves back into Cambodian society after having fled to Indonesia and then returned, AFP [Agence France-Press] reports.

The Cambodian Red Cross took charge of the 60 returnees from the Galang refugee camp, who arrived late Wednesday via a chartered Vietnam Air flight, and were arranging to deliver them to their homes.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) gave each adult 50 dollars and each child 25 dollars, and food coupons for one year, said UNHCR spokesman Iain Guest.

Some 460 Cambodian refugees in Indonesian camps have signed up to return home, he said.

"This is the first large movement after the repatriation started from Thailand," Guest said. "We are starting to bring people back from countries other than Thailand, and that's very encouraging."

Most of the boat people were young men who fled to avoid fighting in the civil war and to search for work elsewhere, a UNHCR official said. About half were from Phnom Penh.

Demonstrations Planned Against Industry Minister

BK2604071292 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] Last Saturday's issue of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] weekly bulletin reported that trade union members of the Industry Ministry and the trade unions of the Russei Kev technical school and the Industry Ministry's Pharmaceutical Department, planned to stage a demonstration against Industry Minister Chan Phin and the trade union leaders for their collusion in selling off buildings, which are state property, and pocketing the money.

In an open letter to the editors of the KPNLF bulletin, members of the trade unions of the Industry Ministry, the Russei Kev technical school, and the Industry Ministry's Pharmaceutical Department, openly denounced the shameless corruption of the three officials of the regime propped up by Vietnam.

According to reports, the buildings were sold for 300 damloeng [1 damloeng equals 37.5 grams] of gold which were divided up among the three persons to the detriment of the trade unions. In this open letter, the trade union members demanded that the Vietnam-installed regime solve this problem and specified that in case there is no result, they reserve the right to demonstrate against the three persons.

Factions Refuse To Be First To Mark Minefields

BK2804080292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, April 28 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government's army and the Khmer Rouge are both stubbornly refusing to mark their minefields and challenging the other to be the first to do so, UNTAC's head of demining said Tuesday.

The two factions are "blaming one another for not marking their own minefields because they believe they require them tactically," said Colonel Alan Beaver, the New Zealander in charge of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) demining program.

Fighting is still occurring intermittently in the central province of Kompong Thom, he said, and the factions want to wait until all disputes are resolved before giving away their mined positions.

"This is clearly in breach of their own agreement" ending the Cambodian civil war, Beaver said. "What we're doing about it is raising it frequently at the SNC (Supreme National Council) level with Prince Sihanouk... and we believe we're making progress."

UNTAC needs the thousands of minefields in Cambodia—laid during two decades of war—to be clearly visible in order for its 21,000 military and civilian personnel and the 370,000 returning Cambodian refugees to know where not to tread.

UNTAC has started distributing thousands of bright red signs for villagers and factions to post in the most dangerous areas.

Up until three weeks ago, mines were still being laid in Kompong Thom, on disputed Route 12 leading north through Preah Vihear to Thailand.

The road had been the scene of heavy fighting since January, U.N. officials have said.

"We believe it (mining) has ceased, but we need to verify that," Beaver said.

The total number of mines lying hidden in Cambodian countryside is unknown, but guestimates range up to four million.

The private demining firm, the Halo Trust, which is contracted by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to clear land needed for those returning from refugee camps in Thailand, has only removed 70 to 80 mines from 600 square meters of road, Beaver said.

A demining and road-clearing battalion from Thailand has removed about 400 mines and unexploded ordnance, he said.

So far, mines from China, Czechoslovakia, Vietnam, the former Soviet Union, the United States and France have been dug up, he said.

A battalion of 400 engineers from the Chinese People's Liberation Army have been put to work repairing Route 6 leading from the capital to Kompong Thom. They will also be working to reopen several airfields around the country to allow UNTAC to fly in supplies, and rebuilding bridges south of the capital.

"They will be engaged in mine clearance relative to that task," Beaver said.

Beaver is also directing the training of Cambodians in mine-clearing techniques. Sixty people, mostly former soldiers, are now working in demining, being paid 70 dollars a month plus room and board, he said.

UNTAC hopes to train 5,000 people by the end of the year.

With the exception of Halo Trust and the Thai battalion, foreign forces are not involved in demining Cambodia.

"It's a Cambodian problem, created by Cambodians and it must be solved by Cambodians," he said.

Fighting Over Timber in Northeast Area Reported

BK2604043892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Reports from Mondolkiri and Kratie Provinces say that from 15 to 20 April fighting broke out between Cambodian soldiers in the Mondolkiri and Kratie provincial forces and Vietnamese forces which illegally plunder timber in the area along the Mondolkiri-Kratie border.

According to reports our radio has successively received, Vietnam has dispatched a lot of troops and Vietnamese nationals equipped with logging equipment and many trucks and tractors to daily fell hundreds of big hardwood trees in O Reang District, Mondolkiri Province, and in Snuol District, Kratie Province, and take them away to Vietnam.

People and Cambodian soldiers in Mondolkiri and Kratie Provinces are aware of and have witnessed this themselves. Our compatriots do know how Vietnam has plundered territory, national resources, and the Cambodian people during the past more than 13 years of the war of aggression and occupation in Cambodia. Now there is the Paris agreement which requires that Vietnam withdraw from Cambodia. According to this agreement, Cambodia's sovereignty belongs to the quadripartite SNC. In other words, it belongs to all of us Cambodians and not to Vietnam anymore.

Therefore, the duties of all Cambodians are:

1. To unite and chase out Vietnamese from our territory in accordance with the Paris agreement; and
2. To prevent the Vietnamese from coming to plunder national resources and our people.
3. The UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the four Cambodian parties have to check and ensure that all

Vietnamese are withdrawn from Cambodia and prevent them from coming back to Cambodia.

4. Dissolve all four Cambodian parties' armies to prevent further conflict.

Son Sann Calls for SRV Troop Pullout

BK2704104492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 26 Apr 92

[Text] At the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on 20 April, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], clearly said that only when all Vietnamese troops are withdrawn from Cambodia, when there is a neutral political atmosphere in Phnom Penh and throughout Cambodia, and when the SNC plays its role as the sole source of power in Cambodia can elections be freely and fairly held.

H.E. Son Sann further demanded that the Phnom Penh police stop intimidating, arresting, and murdering people to help create a neutral political atmosphere.

More Troops, Arms Sent to Kompong Thom

BK2704105892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 0800 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] According to a well-founded report that our radio newsroom has received from Kompong Thom Province, the Yuon [Vietnamese] and the Phnom Penh faction have been sending additional troops and arms and ammunition from the east to Kompong Thom Province in preparation for a new campaign in Stoung and Kompong Svay Districts. According to the report, the Yuon and the Phnom Penh faction plan to use these reinforcements and armaments to seize some territory from Stung Treng to Rovieng in Preah Vihear Province. It has been learned that the Yuon and the Phnom Penh faction have received fresh aid in the form of humanitarian and reconstruction grants with which they can purchase fuel oil, food supplies, and medicines necessary for this campaign.

The Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia sternly condemns this scheme prepared in violation of the cease-fire by the Yuon aggressors and Phnom Penh faction, and appeals, first, to the brotherly soldiers of the Phnom Penh faction on the entire Kompong Thom battlefield to refrain from conducting any activities that would violate the cease-fire at the command of the Yuon aggressors and the chieftains of the Phnom Penh faction because this would only kindle the flames of war endlessly; and, second, to the UN Transitional Authority and the four Cambodian factions to conduct investigative and monitoring activities, especially in Kompong Thom and Stung Treng, to prevent the Yuon and the Phnom Penh faction from introducing any troops and arms from the east into Kompong Thom.

More Troops Incorporated Into 5th Division

BK2804033692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] According to a well-founded report from Kompong Thom Province, the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh faction have been introducing troops from the 179th and 7th Divisions, Kompong Cham Province's 2d Military Region, Svay Rieng and Prey Veng Provincial Units, and the 4th Military Region on intervention operations in this province into the 5th Division in Kompong Thom Province.

This clearly shows the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh faction have carried on all kinds of schemes in violation of the Paris agreement and the cease-fire accord in Kompong Thom Province.

This plan of the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh faction has greatly enraged Cambodian soldiers who have been sent from all areas outside Kompong Thom Province. Thus, they have continued to flee back home.

These fraternal Cambodian soldiers said: We were ordered to cease-fire and withdraw from Kompong Thom Province. Why should we fight on? Since 1 June has been set as the date for the general cease-fire, we will not stay on. Let the Vietnamese and the Phnom Penh chieftains fight for themselves.

Five Arms Depots Hidden in Prey Veng

BK2504015692 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia [VGNUFC] radio recently received a note from people in Baphnum District, Prey Veng Province, protesting the fact that Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side are hiding five large ammunition depots in Baphnum District. This is what the note says:

We would like to ask the VGNUFC radio to pass on the information to the UN control group and the four Cambodian parties that in our Baphnum District, Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side are hiding ammunition and all types of weapons in five large depots. At the end of March, a large depot, called Depot No. 152 exploded and was completely burned out, causing the death of 53 people between 500 meters and one km away from the site of explosion.

These depots store the ammunition Vietnam brought from Ho Chi Minh City in November and December to our Baphnum District for use east of the Mekong River and also for dispatching to other battlefields west of the Mekong. We therefore propose that UN peacekeeping forces be dispatched to control these depots to prevent Vietnam and the Phnom Penh side from using these ammunition and weapons to fuel war.

[Dated] 3 April 1992

[Signed] People in Baphnum District, Prey Veng Province

Indonesia

Authorities Detain 10 PRC Boat People

BK2404100292 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0921 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Semarang (C. Java), Apr. 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—A motor boat with ten passengers on board from the People's Republic of China (PRC) stranded on the Marini Coast of Tanjung Emas, near here, until Wednesday evening was still under investigation by the authorities.

Passengers of the boat which is equipped with an outboard motor of about four HP are made up of seven men, two women, and a little girl.

They have no identity cards and none of them speaks English.

Local maritime police said Thursday that awaiting their repatriation process, the boat is still held up at the Marini Coast.

Interrogation by the immigration, customs, and Tanjung Emas Port security have revealed that passengers came from a Chinese province with an intention to go to Australia for employment.

Previously, they made a call at a Malaysian port, but developed an engine trouble when heading for Australia.

According to an immigration official of the Tanjung Emas Port, they are not permitted to stay longer than necessary here and will have to continue their journey after their outboard motor. [sentence as received]

Hungary Can Be 'Gateway' for Exports

BK2504113192 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0710 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, Apr 25 (ANTARA)—Hungary can serve as a gateway for Indonesian exports to East Europe, Vice President of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ferenc Derczy said here on Friday.

He told a press conference after the opening of a Hungarian business presentation that his country is experienced in penetrating the market of the former communist Comecon countries.

Meanwhile, Jefferson, of the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Kadin), said Hungary has a big market for Indonesian goods such as textiles, leather, and food products.

Jefferson explained during a recent trip to Hungary he found out that Indonesian exports to that country are commonly produced by middle-and-small scale businesses.

"Indonesian entrepreneurs have a good chance in that country," he said.

Besides market prospects, Hungary also offered liberal trade market climate and has good infrastructural facilities which ensure smooth distribution of Indonesian goods.

There have been Indonesian entrepreneurs doing business in Hungary, said A. Hakim Talib, another Kadin official. He suggested that Indonesian businessmen should not wait any longer to enter the Hungarian market.

On transportation constraints, Robert Parr of the Hungarian Embassy said that his country provides access from any direction so that there is no problem with regard to transportation.

So far, Hungary has not yet made an investment in Indonesia and cooperation between the two countries is still in the form of agreements. A bulb lamp firm "Tungsram" has obtained a technology license from Hungary.

Hungary has the technological capability to produce oil mining equipment which is expected to enter the Indonesian market, Derczy said.

Last week, the national flag carrier Garuda Indonesia and a Hungarian airline company agreed to serve a direct flight between the two countries.

Data at the central Bureau of Statistics (BPS) show that there are 37 types of commodities which are exported to Hungary.

The trade balance of the two countries shows a difference of about two million U.S. dollars in favour Indonesia.

In 1991, Indonesia's exports to Hungary stood at 20 million U.S. dollars, against its imports of 18 million U.S. dollars.

Dutch Aid Agencies Yet To Receive Ending Notice

LD2704135392 Hilversum Radio Netherlands in English 1230 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Four Dutch private aid agencies operating in Indonesia say they've so far received no final word from the Indonesian authorities on ending their activities. Last week, Indonesian interior minister, Rudini, warned that all Indonesian institutions that accept aid from Dutch private agencies will be penalized. The Dutch Ministry for Development Cooperation also says it's received no official confirmation of the measures announced by the Indonesian interior minister. The four Dutch aid organizations allocate about \$10 million a year to small-scale development projects in Indonesia. A large share of this year's budget has already been transferred to local institutions.

No Reduction in OPEC Production Quota Seen

BK2404142492 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1118 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Vienna, Apr. 24 (OANA-ANTARA)—Minister of Mines and Energy Ginanjar Kartasasmita has stressed that Indonesia will not reduce the production quota which has been agreed upon.

Important, however, is that no OPEC member country violates that agreement, he told newsmen here on Thursday.

The ministerial level meeting of the OPEC, which has the task to monitor the development of the oil price, will take place in Vienna as of Friday.

Reduction of the current production quota which had been agreed upon, namely about 23.4 million barrels per day, would only be implemented if Iraqi-produced oil re-entered the international market, the Indonesian minister said.

So far Iraq was still unable to export its oil because of the UN embargo imposed on that country after its invasion of Kuwait.

Reduction in the oil production quota would only be implemented after Iraq was allowed to resume its oil exports. And this should only be carried out by those oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Qatar which had been assigned to replenish the oil shortage caused by the embargo on Iraq.

Indonesia, on the other hand, was not obliged to reduce its current production. The current production quota allotted to Indonesia amounted to 1,374 million barrels per day.

On the oil price development, Ginanjar pointed out that it had improved after the production reduction of about one million barrels per day was introduced last February.

Because the production had approached the current consumption level, an improvement in the market price had taken place, he said.

On further developments in the oil price, Ginanjar said not to be able [as received] to predict because apart from the basic factors such as supply, demand, and the stock at the industrial countries' disposal, a new factor had appeared in the form of an eventual embargo on Libya which refused to hand over two of its citizens accused of the bombing of a Pan Am plane at Lockerbie.

A number of OPEC member countries, among others Algeria, Iran, and Kuwait, had previously given an indication of forwarding a proposal to reduce the current production quota, he said.

Palapa Satellite To Be Realigned 26 Apr

BK2404155792 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Telecommunications Company Limited will realign and level the Palapa satellite as well as all hardware at its earth station from 0000 to 1300 West Indonesian Standard Time on 26 April 1992 [1700 GMT on 25 April to 0600 GMT on 26 April 1992]. J. Amarruddin, administrative manager of Telecommunications Region 4 covering Jakarta, said that would temporarily disrupt communications. Thus, subscribers of telecommunications services from and to 199 district towns, including subscription circuits will not be able to enjoy its services temporarily. The district towns affected include Dumai, Pontianak, Tolitoli, Biak, Manokwari, Kupang, Bontang, Tembagapura, Talang, Natuna, Morotai, and others. The services provided by Transponder 10 and Transponder 2 will be disrupted for three and a half hours and those provided by Transponder 12 and Transponder 1 will be disrupted for seven hours and 13 hours respectively.

The realignment and leveling of the Palapa Satellite is designed to improve the telecommunications network, especially for district capitals using satellite transmissions [words indistinct].

Forum Warned Against 'Political Agitation'

BK2404155392 Jakarta ANTARA in Indonesian 0949 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Jakarta, 24/4 (ANTARA)—Lieutenant General Harsudiono Hartas, chief of staff for sociopolitical affairs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia [ABRI], has said that there has been no ban against the activities of Abdurahman Wahid and the "Democracy Forum" [which he heads] provided they are not involved in political agitation, which will confuse the people.

"Please go ahead as long as you are not engaged in agitation as there are "Democracy Forum" members who are still oriented to the past," he said in reply to reporters in Jakarta on Friday.

Speaking after giving a lecture at the Second National Executive Congress of Kosgoro [a foundation run by former freedom fighters], the ABRI chief of staff said ABRI had no intention of curbing the forum's activities as long as they were within limits and were not directed at changing the existing system. "Just normal," he said.

When asked to name "Democracy Forum" members who are still oriented to the past, he said they could be known from their statements on justice, human rights, and democracy.

If they wanted to discuss justice, they should offer concepts instead. But, this has often been unclear, Hartas said.

Because of this, he advised the group to give clear concepts on democracy and other matters.

Any criticisms should be clear and offer solutions. Don't simply launch attacks, Hartas said.

According to the three-star general, the most important thing is that the nation be not wrongly educated. The people may go astray as a result.

In his lecture, the ABRI chief of staff added that the "Democracy Forum" intended to synchronize the different ideas of the people.

However, in reality their statements have often confused the people. This proves that the "Democracy Forum" does not consistently adhere to the main ideas of the 1945 Constitution in national life.

He reminded the people not to be confused by tricks of any party and to consistently maintain national unity.

Laos

U.S. Delegation Seeking Help for MIA Search

BK2504033292 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday, a U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator John F. Kerry, chairman of a committee in charge of American soldiers missing in action [MIA] during the Indochina war, arrived in the capital city of Vientiane on their visit to Laos.

On the same day, the U.S. delegation met Khamtai Siphandon, prime minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; Phoun Sipaseut, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Thongsing Thammavong, vice chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly.

During the courtesy calls on the Lao leaders, the U.S. delegation informed them that the main objective of their visit to Laos focused on the cooperation between the United States and Laos in the digging and searching for remains of American soldiers missing in action during the Indochina war.

The American delegation was of the idea that such an operation should be speedily carried out, the faster the better, in order to pave the way for furthering cooperation in other areas between the two countries more extensively and efficiently.

On this occasion, the Lao leaders appreciated the visit to Laos by the U.S. delegation and expressed satisfaction that the relations and cooperation between Laos and the United States would improve steadily. They also informed the visitors that the Lao Government concurred with the idea to render its cooperation to the United States with its full efforts and capability in searching and digging for remains of Americans missing in action during the war so that the operation would be carried out as quickly as possible.

Later on the day, the delegation of the U.S. senators also held talks with Laos' other high-level delegation concerned,

which was led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat, to find ways and means to assist and quicken the cooperation in searching for the remains of American MIA's. To achieve this goal, both sides agreed to increase their personnel for the task and to exchange more data and information with each other for the year 1992.

Apart from the aforementioned activities, the U.S. delegation will make a trip to observe sites of digging for remains of American MIA's and the implementation of humanitarian aid projects in Houa Phan Province. The U.S. delegation will spend three days in their visit to Laos.

Delegation Departs

BK2704161392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] On 26 April, the U.S. Senate delegation led by Senator John F. Kerry departed for home after ending a three-day working visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The delegation arrived in Laos on 24 April with the aim of collecting information and data, exchanging views, and holding consultations with the Lao side on methods of searching for and excavating the remains of U.S. soldiers missing during the Indochina war, with a view to further intensifying and completing the work which had already been carried out in the past.

In addition to meeting with Lao technicians and paying courtesy calls on some high-level Lao leaders, the delegation also visited some excavation sites for remains in Houa Phan Province.

Deputy Trade Minister Reports on SRV Visit

BK2404030892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Apr 92

[Text] This morning, the Laos Ministry of Trade and Tourism delegation led by Deputy Minister Sompadit Volasan returned to the capital city of Vientiane after completing a seven-day visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

During the visit, the Lao delegation held consultations with its Vietnamese counterpart on the implementation of trade and tourism projects. The two delegations successfully reached a conclusion to expand and improve trade between the two countries into a proper system, especially the trading activities along the Lao-Vietnamese border.

On that occasion, both sides signed a protocol on bilateral trade for 1992. The protocol states the detail for contact and exchange of goods and investment in various service fields between the two countries.

Refugees Attend Seminar on 'Party-State Policy'

*BK2704173292 Vientiane KPL in English
0907 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 27 (KPL)—The Sayaboury provincial administration has recently held a seminar for some 35 repatriates in the province to study the country's constitution, the laws on nationality and rights of citizens, and the resolution-5 of the party as well as the party-state policy towards refugees, especially the misled people.

So far, 1,068 refugees have returned home in Sayaboury Province where they have received good care from the local administration involving the arrangement of new settlements and provision of materials necessary for their daily life.

Post, Telecommunications Links Expansion Planned

*BK2704164792 Vientiane KPL in English
0914 GMT 27 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 27 (KPL)—The Post and Telecommunications Company of Laos has planned for the immediate future to improve and expand post services and to continue implementing telecommunications development project.

A report [presented by] Deputy Managing Director of the Company Pho Phatthaphon at the recent tripartite conference on post and telecommunications indicates that the company has planned to improve and expand post offices, which number 129 now, along with adequate equipment supply ensuring regular operation of the post service throughout the country.

The company has also planned to open exchange of express mail and money order with foreign countries, market stamps for collection, expand the to-door-delivery of mail, ensure quick and regular transportation of mail, apply modern equipment to upgrade the service quality, step up personnel training, and promote contacts with foreign organisations.

On the telecommunications development projects, the company was to continue its second phase involving the construction of 34 MB/S microwave transmission system at a distance of 960 km from Luang Prabang to Pakse for communications across the country.

Central modern telephone system will be installed: 13,500 lines in Pakse, 500 in Thakhek, and 200 in Paksan.

Within the projects framework, cable telephone system will be also constructed for towns where central telephone operator exists, in addition to the installation of new central teles system of 450 lines in Vientiane to ensure contacts with overseas.

The second phase construction was started in early 1991 and scheduled for completion in December 1993. Its total cost was estimated at U.S. \$42 million.

U.S. Aid to Help Employ Handicapped Noted

*BK2504172092 Vientiane KPL in English
0902 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[Text] Vientiane, April 25 (KPL)—The handicapped rehabilitation centre of the Ministry of Public Health in collaboration with the World Vision in Laos has since 1991 promoted employment for 199 families of handicapped people in the areas of Koutsambat (Vientiane Province), Khang Khai (Xieng Khouang Province), and Houi Toun (Houa Phan Province).

The promotion of job and employment for the handicapped in the three areas has been granted with humanitarian aid at a value of U.S. dollars 850,000 from the U.S. administration having the World Vision in Laos as executor.

In the framework of this programme, each family is granted with three cattle and 240,000 kip in cash as the family's capital for a period of four years.

In addition, the World Vision also provides materials for making artificial limbs and to train the handicapped to be able to produce and use the limbs. The programme is expected to end this year.

Defense Minister's Message to DPRK's O Chin-u

*BK2604052892 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio
Network in Lao 0430 GMT 25 Apr 92*

[24 April greetings message from Lieutenant General Choummali Sai-gnason, minister of national defense of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to General O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea]

[Text] Respected Comrade Minister, on the occasion commemorating the 60th founding anniversary of the Korean People's Army [KPA], on behalf of the leadership, all commands, and all combatants in the Lao People's Army [LPA], and in my own name, I would like to extend my salutations and best wishes to Comrade Minister, and, through you, to the leadership, all commands, and combatants in the KPA. May you all win new victories in carrying out your tasks in all fields.

Throughout the past 60 years, having passed through extremely tough tests, having simultaneously consolidated and built the forces and carried out fighting, under the capable, talented, and clear-sighted leadership of and the training by the Workers Party of Korea headed by respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song, the KPA has attained strong growth and development. It has become a model modern army. It has cooperated with the entire people in performing heroic deeds; contributing significantly to the cause of building and defending the socialist regime in the northern part of the country and the reunification of Korea; contributing essentially to the peace process, stability of the region and the world.

The LPA highly values the victories of the KPA and regards them as our own. I hope that the long-standing

relations, solidarity, friendship between the people and the armies of two countries—Laos and Korea—will further be developed.

On this glorious occasion, I wish the KPA to grow and develop incessantly and win ever greater new victories than before. I wish Comrade Minister good health and happiness in order to achieve successes in your esteemed duties.

Philippines

Finance Officials To Begin New IMF Loan Talks

HK2704035292 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] The Aquino government is engaged in last-minute negotiations for a new \$539 million loan from foreign financial institutions to make up part of the transition funds for the new administration. Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia will start discussions in Washington for new loans from the International Monetary Fund. The Philippines is hoping to obtain \$29.57 million in new loans, which will comprise 40 percent of the country's credit quota of \$590.94 million. [sentence as heard] This is called the augmentation fund to be utilized in the debt-reduction program for the foreign creditor banks.

CIS Membership in IMF Supported

HK2804030492 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 28 Apr 92 p 2

[Text] The Philippines will support the bid of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) to become a member of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank at the annual spring meeting of the two multilateral financial institutions in Washington, D.C. this week, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao said.

Mr. Estanislao, together with Central Bank Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr, left for the U.S. last Friday to join other central bank governors and finance ministers in the annual meeting.

While the entry of the CIS signals another turning point for the international financial community, Mr. Estanislao said this should be viewed also in terms of its impact on other member-countries to the IMF and World Bank which are smaller than the CIS.

VOTING SHARES

The impact will be on the voting shares of smaller countries like the Philippines, the Finance chief said.

When Russia comes in, Mr. Estanislao said the crucial question is: Will we have equal rights to the "constituency chair?"

The Philippines, together with other small member-countries, is proposing that the "constituency chair" be increased should the IMF and World Bank decide to accommodate the CIS.

Mr. Estanislao expressed optimism that the issue will be resolved favorably.

Debt-Restructuring Accord With Finland Signed

HK2404070292 Quezon City MALAYA in English 24 Apr 92 p 13

[Text] The Philippine government yesterday concluded its fourth bilateral rescheduling agreement with Finland. Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao signed the agreement with Finnish Ambassador to the Philippines Juba Paivio Puromies [name as published].

Payment of approximately \$3.63 million in debt service due from July 1, 1991 up to Dec 31, 1992 was rescheduled. Under this agreement, the consolidated amount will be rescheduled over 15 years inclusive of an eight-year grace period. Applicable moratorium interest is 0.5 percent over a six-month LIBOR [London Inter-Bank Offered Rate] currently 4.25 percent, except for the first interest period.

In addition, FRB [expansion unknown] agreed to participate in a voluntary debt swap arrangement which will be covered under a separate agreement.

Yesterday's signing brings up to nine the total number of bilateral rescheduling agreements so far concluded by the country under the Paris Club Agreed Minute dated June 20, 1991. The Philippines recently concluded rescheduling agreements with France, Canada, Spain, United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Swiss Confederation, Austria and Belgium.

1992-1993 Cultural Accord With PRC Signed

HK2404023592 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Philippine and PRC representatives have signed the 1992-1993 Cultural Agreement. The accord was signed at the Beijing International Hotel 15 April. Those who signed the agreement were Edna Formilleza of the Philippines, and (Yu Dieyu) of the PRC. The accord paves the way for exchanges in the field of cultural administration and research, the performing arts, exhibitions, education, radio, television, journalism, books and publications, and [word indistinct].

Aquino Orders Strict Implementation of Gun Ban

BK2704164392 Manila PNA in English 0752 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Manila, April 27 (OANA/PNA)—Philippine President Corazon Aquino, apparently alarmed by increasing incidents of election related violence, directed Monday

the Philippines National Police (PNP) to strictly implement the gun ban and mobilize additional policemen to insure the holding of a peaceful and honest elections.

The president likewise expressed confidence that the Catholic Church through its major organizations such as the Catholic Bishop Conference could remain neutral by not endorsing any candidate or political party in the coming May 11 polls.

In a prepared press statement, Mrs. Aquino said the Philippine Government condemned the terroristic acts which so far claimed at least 25 lives of innocent candidates.

The president declined, however, to specify the measures the PNP has to take in strictly implementing the gun ban.

But it was believed that the presidential instruction would be effectively carried out by the setting up of more checkpoints in strategic areas and the fielding of police foot patrols in the places declared critical.

In expressing her sharp reactions over the sudden rise of the case of poll violence, Mrs. Aquino said: "We deplore all election-related violence any have directed the Philippine nation [words indistinct].

Police Chief Urges Poll Postponement in Cagayan

HK2804031592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 28 Apr 92 pp 1, 13

[By Gay Dumat-Ol]

[Text] Philippine National Police [PNP] chief Gen. Cesar P. Nazareno yesterday recommended the postponement of elections to June 30 in violence-rocked Cagayan province.

Nazareno made the recommendation during a meeting with Commission on Elections [Comelec] and military and police officials in Cagayan, where two recent killings believed to be politically motivated were discussed.

Meanwhile, the Comelec directed Nazareno to "review the partiality" of Cagayan police officers.

Comelec Chairman Christian Monsod said the review will affect not only Tuao police chief Jesus Noveno, whom the poll body wanted replaced even before the killing Saturday of Lakas-NUCD [Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue's Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] congressional bet Leonardo Mamba.

Monsod said the Comelec was about to direct the PNP to assign Noveno elsewhere as a result of the shooting earlier of a supporter of LDP-NP [Struggle of Filipino Democrats-Nacionalista Party] congressional candidate Alfonso Reyno.

Nazareno and other PNP officials rushed to Cagayan following Mamba's killing.

Mamba was killed hours after he, Florencio Vargas, father of Cagayan Gov. Melvin Vargas, and 68 other local candidates of the administration party were held hostage by armed men during a wedding reception in Barangay Bayabat, Amuyong town.

Chief Superintendent Agerico Kagaoan, PNP commander for Cagayan Valley, said that while investigators were "positive" that communist rebels killed Mamba, they were in the process of evaluating evidence that would confirm that assassins were hired by Mamba's political rivals.

Bayabat residents said the killing could have been in retaliation for the shooting of Reyno by one of Mamba's followers.

Reyno had complained that Noveno was relative of the slain Mamba and had been helping him in his campaign.

Nazareno directed local military and police officials present at the meeting to periodically assess the peace and order situation in Cagayan to determine whether further postponement of elections is necessary.

Kagaoan agreed with other officials at the meeting that there was a need to further augment the number of peace-keeping soldiers and policemen in the province.

"Cagayan has an artificial peace which can blow up anytime when ignited," he said.

The Comelec earlier said the police leadership in Cagayan should be held accountable for the two incidents that involved "blatant use of firearms and violence."

About 100 Army soldiers were deployed yesterday to augment the security in Cagayan after local police officials complained of the insufficiency of the 111 mobile teams, composed of 80 PNP officers, assigned to eight critical towns in the province.

The Army soldiers came from the 5th Infantry Division based in Isabela.

The Comelec still has to decide on whether to put the province under its control due to the delay in the submission of police and military reports.

In another development, detained putsch leaders Brig. Gen. Edgardo Abenina, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador and Brig. Gen. Jose Blando yesterday signed a peace covenant which, they said, binds all military rebels to scrap plans for another coup attempt.

Lawyer Oliver Lozano yesterday gathered the detained generals to sign the Covenant for Peaceful Elections (COPE) which states that "no coup shall be launched by either the Armed Forces or the (ultra-rightist) Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance; RAM] before, during or after the elections [no end quotes as published].

Renegade Col. Gregorio Honasan and other members of the RAM leadership have yet to declare their stand on the peace covenant.

Military, Army Rebels Sign 'No Coup' Accord

HK2704064892 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0500 GMT 27 Spt 92

[Text] There will be no coup d'etat before or after the elections. This was affirmed by leaders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and an exploratory group from the Reform the Armed Forces Movement which is presently meeting at Camp Aguinaldo. This affirmation is embodied in the accord for a peaceful election which was signed by both sides. Former Brigadier Edgardo Abenina, who heads the group, said they are manifesting the wish to promote a peaceful and clean election. He added that his group, which is underground at present, will honor the accord.

Meanwhile the AFP pledged it will abide by the Constitution and uphold democracy. It also said it would arrest any election violators, whoever they are.

Rebels Accuse Government of Spreading Coup Rumors

HK2704065492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 27 Apr 92 pp 1, 2

[By Renato Hallig and Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] Rightist military rebels Saturday accused President Aquino and some of her "favorite" generals of spreading coup rumors to cover up their involvement in the multibillion-peso highly questionable transactions in the defense and military organizations, which also include presidential relatives. [sentence as published]

"After we exposed the highly irregular purchase of Simba armored vehicles and six additional S-211 trainer jets worth more than P3 [Philippine peso] billion, Mrs. Aquino, Defense Secretary Renato de Villa, Armed Forces chief of staff Lisandro Abadia, Army chief Major General Arturo Enrile, and Air Force Commanding General Loven Abadia started spreading coup rumors," the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance]-Soldiers of the Filipino People-Young Officers Union (RAM-SFP-YOU) said in a statement sent to their "friends in the media" signed by their spokesman, Gabriel Dimasupil.

The RAM-SFP-YOU had earlier charged that the transaction would help bankroll the presidential bid of former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, the anointed candidate of Mrs. Aquino.

But Malacanang yesterday dismissed the accusation as "black propaganda."

"There's no truth to that... I vigorously deny that there are any Kamag-anak [relatives] involved... the Department of National Defense and the military have thoroughly tested the Simba and they have found it to be the

most suitable armored vehicle (for the Philippine situation)... We would like to point out that both these programs (Simba and S-211) have been discussed with Congress during budget discussions," Press Secretary Horacio Paredes told Malacanang reporters.

The RAM-SFP-YOU pointed out that two of the overpriced trainer jets crashed early this month, killing four young pilots.

"It is very clear in their conflicting statements that they are trying to cover up their involvement in graft and corruption in the defense and military establishments by concocting lies and spreading them to divert public attention," the statement said.

The rebels added that the Commission on Elections (Comelec) also saw the opportunity of using the coup jitters to hide its own unpreparedness and irregularities, particularly the presence of 6.2 million fake voters in more than 7,000 barangays in various towns and cities in the country.

They said it was no wonder that the Comelec merely ignored their strong demand for a general registration in affected areas where they discovered the presence of fake voters and flying voters as early as November last year.

"We feared then, as we do now, that if the Comelec will not do something, the next president and other elective officials will not reflect the will of the people."

The rebels also said they submitted eight talking points to the Aquino government late last year when it decided to dialog with their leaders and they placed on top of the talking points the holding of honest, clean and orderly elections.

"In fact, we sent the talking points document to Mrs. Aquino through General Abadia. Unfortunately, this, too, was ignored."

The RAM-SFP-YOU declared that in the graft and corruption issue, they had in their possession documents showing the "unassailable involvement" of Mrs. Aquino, some of her kamag-anak and her favorite generals in various shady deals in the defense and military establishments dating back to the time of Ramos as chief of staff and defense secretary.

They stressed that one of the documents covering the highly questionable Simba deal showed that one of the two companies involved in the transaction had a capital outlay of only P40,000 and yet it was allowed to participate in the manufacture and marketing of 150 units of the prototype armored vehicle valued at \$80 million or P2 billion.

"This is like a catfish swallowing a whale all because of Mrs. Aquino's shameless act of favoring her kamag-anak and favorite generals. Worse, she signed the deal on the recommendation of General Enrile, General Abadia, and Secretary De Villa at a time when our soldiers are dying in the field for lack of moral, legal and much-needed logistical support.

The RAM-SFP-YOU pointed out that the Simba had been proposed to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] by the GKN of England, which manufactured the first prototype of the Simba in 1984 and has since then started marketing it to several countries. To date, however, not a single unit of the Simba had ever been sold to any country.

They added that the selection, production and deployment of the vehicle might be a risky proposition since the manufacturer (GKN of England) had never put the Simba into production. The only known vehicle that was available for in-country invaluation [as published] was the prototype.

Mrs. Aquino approved the AFP proposal for the procurement of 150 units of the Simba for \$83.284 million last November, eight of which are to be delivered this year and paid from the AFP budget.

The RAM-SFP-YOU also said:

"We are personally accusing General Abadia of violating the honor code and of misconduct by raiding the home of Mrs. Mona Estrada in Blue Ridge last March 28. This was where Colonel Gregorio B. Honasan II met with General Abadia late last year. General Abadia then made a promise that no harm will come to the Estrada family. But since last December, General Abadia and his agents have continually harassed and placed under round-the-clock surveillance the Estrada family, its relatives and friends.

"Two young officers, Lieutenant Vicente Tomas and Lieutenant Hernando Caraig, who both visited the Estradas, were also arrested and are now confined at the Army Custodial Center in Fort Bonifacio.

"Two civilians, Allan Page and Tomas Descolzado, who also visited the Estradas, were kidnapped and tortured by the military. Both are still missing."

Muslim Group Poised To Disrupt Elections

*HK2704063492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 25 Apr 92 p 4*

[By Alvin Tarroza]

[Text] Isabela, Basilan—Heavily armed groups were sighted massing in the hinterlands of the three municipalities here allegedly to disrupt the May 11 polls in this province.

A military intelligence source told NEWSDAY that the massing of armed men had been monitored by an Armed Forces team since last week in the municipalities of Tuburan, Tipo-Tipo and Sumisip which are considered areas controlled by the secessionist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The source, who requested not to be identified, said the armed men were believed to be members of the MNLF who were tasked to campaign for a boycott in the coming national elections.

The source also said the armed group was believed to be from Sulu, as confirmed by some candidates (from the Liberal Party-PDP Laban [Party of Filipino Democrats-Nation's Strength] coalition team, the Lakas ng EDSA [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue's Strength]-National Union of Christian Democrats, and the Nationalist People's Coalition) who were able to campaign in those municipalities. The candidates, however, refused to be identified.

Colonel Romeo Daransiang, 2nd Marine Brigade commander, admitted that there are remnants at [as published] the MNLF in the province, numbering about 1,000, including members of the so-called Lost Command.

Daransiang also admitted that on the surface, "it's peaceful, but in the hinterlands where the Marines cannot penetrate, the peace and order condition is abnormal."

He said, however, that the military is still on top of the situation. He said 15 of the MNLF's "top gun" commanders died when their boat sank last February 28, 1992 of the borderline of Malaysia and the Sulu Sea when they were on their way to Malaysia.

Talip Congo, the MNLF provincial commander, is still in Malaysia and cannot be reached by his field commanders here due to lack of communication facilities, Daransiang said.

Comelec To Deploy 500,000 Personnel for Polls

*HK2404075792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 24 Apr 92 p 1*

[By Robert Requitina]

[Text] A total of 500,000 troops, militiamen, and student cadets will be deployed in polling centers in Metro Manila and other parts of the country to maintain peace and order during the May 11 elections, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said yesterday.

The PNP requested the Commission on Elections (Comelec) for an additional P85-million [Philippine pesos] support fund to cover various election requirements.

While 10,000 police and military units have already been deployed, the government will also add 24,192 soldiers from various AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] mobile forces, members of the Citizens Armed Geographical Units (CAFGU), and 32,513 Citizens Military Training (CMT) cadets.

PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno has called for the deployment of additional troops in anticipation of violence that may erupt as Election Day draws nearer.

Police have tagged 287 municipalities in 54 provinces in the country as potential trouble spots. At least 18 provinces were named as critical areas because of the presence of private armies and communist rebels and intense political rivalries.

In Metro Manila, PNP Director Marino Filart, South Capital Command (Capcom) chief, said that Tagig has been included as one of the sensitive areas and probable trouble spots because of threats from the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Filart said that on Election Day, some 2,000 police personnel will be fielded, supported with 149 mobile patrol cars.

Nazareno said that communist rebels and Muslim secessionist guerrillas could pose peace and order problems. But that is expected to be eased with the deployment of additional troops which would also help neutralize the remaining 23 private armies nationwide, he added.

In a recent command conference held at Camp Crame, Quezon City, police and military officials pledged to use their full force to ensure peaceful and credible elections.

Their pledge came following reports that rightist elements are planning to launch "Oplan [Operation Plan] Noel" (No Election), an attack on government installations to undermine the results of the elections.

Government authorities belittled the threats of enemies of the state, warning them that they will be met with a bigger force.

Presidential Candidates Support Military Rebels

*HK2704143892 Manila DIYARYO FILIPINO
in Tagalog 25 Apr 92 p 1*

[By Pablo Hernandez]

[Text] Two presidential candidates who are close friends and a billionaire businessman have given P50 million [Philippine Pesos] to the Reform the Armed Forces-Soldiers of the Filipino People [RAM-SFP] group in order to launch a coup d'etat and sabotage the election.

An intelligence report from Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo says that the group, which belongs to former Colonel Gregorio Honasan, planned to start the coup last Wednesday and Saturday. The attempt was thwarted by the military, and the Aquino administration has placed its troops on alert against the rebel soldiers.

The report did not mention the names of the brains behind Oplan Noel [Operation Plan No Election] except to say that the two presidential candidates were both prominent during the Marcos regime and possess extensive election machinery, while the billionaire businessman is based in Makati.

The report says the three gave P50 million to the RAM-SFP to finance logistical, transport, and communications equipment to back up Oplan Noel.

The report says several politicians and businessmen would support any coup which Honasan may launch. The two presidential candidates reportedly support each other and their parties have formed an alliance.

The report did not say what role the three would play should a coup succeed, but they aim to sabotage the election, especially since rumors abound about a military junta taking over should former Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos lose the election.

One of the presidential candidates was reported to have talked recently with Honasan and also with rebel leaders who have surrendered to the government.

Honasan's group is said to be recruiting men from the military and the police in Manila and surrounding provinces to join the coup attempt. Those recruited are allegedly explosives and weapons experts and are being paid between P10,000 to P20,000 to join RAM-SFP.

Intelligence agencies are presently watching the two presidential candidates and the businessman, especially since they have been meeting Honasan at the Intercontinental Hotel. [sentence as published] Rumors have it that most RAM-SFP officials are staying at a first-class hotel in Makati, and their expenses are being paid by one of the presidential candidates.

Meanwhile, National Bureau of Investigation Director Epimaco Velasco yesterday met with his officials to prepare for any coup attempts that may occur before and after the elections. The aim of the meeting was reportedly to ensure that the polls are orderly, peaceful, and honest. Measures to implement effectively measures embodied in the Commission on Election's [Comelec] Omnibus Election Code were discussed. Velasco said updated election results would be released by Comelec, which will link up with different government agencies to ensure no problems arise.

Rebels To Take 'Deterrent Actions' During Polls

*HK2404064892 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY
in English 24 Apr 92 pp 1, 2*

[By Dario B. Agnote and Dionisio Tubianosa]

[Text] The right-wing forces will launch a series of "deterrent actions" before or on the day of the May 11 general elections to thwart plans of some political candidates to subvert or manipulate the results of the electoral process, NEWSDAY learned yesterday.

Meanwhile, President Aquino, in a statement read by Press Secretary Horacio Paredes to Malacanang reporters yesterday, confirmed that the government effectively neutralized a coup plot by military rebels following its timely discovery over the weekend.

Immediately after reading the statement, however, Paredes corrected the presidential statement and said "the president was not in any way saying that there was indeed a plot discovered. The president was just going by the terms of your question."

The presidential statement said in part, "the fact that the military has already uncovered the plot is the best assurance that the coup will not take place."

A military rebel officer who requested anonymity also assured the public that no coup d'etat would be mounted before the May 11 polls "simply because it's illogical and not wise to mount one at this point."

"These are actions that will deter fraud or plans of unscrupulous politicians to disrupt the elections. Marami pa rin kasing mga politiko na balak mandaya sa eleksiyon [There are still a number of politicians who are planning to cheat in the polls]," said the rebel source as he also denied the reported coup plots alleged scheduled Holy Thursday and Black Saturday. "The reports were just absurd," he said.

The rebel officer said in an interview that only deterrent actions would be mounted between now and election day. The officer declined to elaborate on the details of the "actions" that the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan-Kawal ng Sambayanang Pilipino [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance-Soldiers of the Filipino People]-Young Officers Union (RAM-KSP-YOU) forces plan to launch, saying "just wait for it to happen."

"Is it going to be a spate of bombings in the metropolis?" he was asked. "No, bombings are passe," was the answer. "And it's definitely not a coup," said the source who believed that the RAM-KSP-YOU still enjoyed a "big number" of followers within the Armed Forces organization.

The rebel officer's revelation somehow confirmed AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff General Lisandro Abadia's statement Tuesday about a pre-elections destabilization plot being planned by the ultra-rightist groups.

Earlier this week, Abadia told reporters that RAM-KSP-YOU elements were actively recruiting members again as they plan to mount "terroristic activities" such as bombings, assassinations, sabotage, rescue operations, raids on military and police arsenals and the like in an effort to paint a picture of doom on or before the May 11 polls.

Even police officials joined the bandwagon by making a calculated leak to the media of an alleged right-wing plan codenamed Operation Noel (No Elections). According to a classified intelligence document prepared by the police, the alleged right-wing plan "will be implemented should there be a general perception of widespread political violence, gross irregularities and even the election of a minority president."

Senior military officials blamed the coup rumors that have been sweeping Metro Manila since the arrest last April 8 of two YOU members in a house in Quezon City on the putschists, both the underground and the above-ground. Abadia said the plot was uncovered through the documents seized from the re-arrested junior officers. Detained military renegades deny this, saying there were no documents seized from the two YOU members.

In fact, Abadia singled out ex-Constabulary Lieutenant Colonel Billy Bibit and fugitive military renegades ex-Commodore Domingo Calajate and ex-Navy Captain

Felix Turingan. These three rebel officers are mapping out the plans, actively recruiting and spreading the rumors at the same time, claimed Abadia, adding that coup leader Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan was no longer that active in mapping out a coup plot.

Detained Navy Captain Proceso Maligalig said the coup rumor was part of a government design to create a chaotic atmosphere to justify an implementation of martial law. He belied Abadia's claim that the military uncovered the alleged rightist plot from documents seized from Army First Lieutenants Vicente Tomas and Hernando Caraig, saying only the RAM-KSP-YOU signature T-shirts were seized from the two.

Detained ex-Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, who is now running for senator under the wings of NP presidential candidate Eduardo Cojuangco, accused Abadia of spreading the coup rumors.

"A coup now is very possible but it will come from (General) Abadia. Abadia himself said last year the military will take over if the elections will be marred by fraud and violence," Abenina said in a telephone interview.

Abenina said the RAM-KSP-YOU "have no plans and cannot do anything substantial to disrupt the elections. The RAM-KSP-YOU have no capability to mount a coup at this time."

Malacanang Approves Decrease in Oil Prices

HK2704083892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 27 Apr 92 pp 1, 11

[By Gerry Lirio]

[Text] Legazpi City—Malacanang on Sunday allowed the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) to further reduce the prices of premium and regular gasoline by P1 [Philippine pesos] to P1.50 per liter.

"It is up to them," Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said, referring to the ERB officials who earlier announced plans to reduce prices of the two products within the next few days.

Drilon was in Bacon, Sorsogon, where he inaugurated a P2-billion geothermal energy project intended to improve the power situation in Luzon.

Drilon said the ERB is an independent body and its decisions are not subject to Palace approval.

"We simply coordinate," he added.

ERB Chairman Rex Tantonco bared Monday last week that the board planned to reduce again the prices of premium and regular gasoline by P1 to P1.50 per liter.

Tantonco cited the surplus of P4.4 billion in the Oil Price Stabilization Fund as of last March.

Drilon, however, said the ERB should consider the plan of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to

reduce production by one million barrels of oil. Such reduction would increase crude cost to \$21 per barrel, from the current \$17 to \$18.

"Whatever is the best for this country should be done," Drilon said.

He earlier said no additional oil price decrease was expected until after the May 11 elections in view of the OPEC plan to reduce production.

The ERB cut the prices of premium and regular gasoline by P1 and diesel and kerosene by 30 centavos per liter last April 14. It was the second oil price reduction ordered by the ERB in less than four months.

Tantiongco had said the next reduction of oil prices would be after the May 11 elections. But the board changed its mind after Sen. Ernesto Maceda filed a petition seeking another P5 reduction in oil prices.

The Philippine National Oil Co., meanwhile, said the Bacon geothermal field, developed over 10 years, has 25 production wells that can generate a total of 50 megawatts of electricity.

Thailand

Reportage on Relations, Policies With Burma

Release of Prisoners Welcomed

BK2704103092 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network
in Thai 0530 GMT 27 Apr 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Pongphon Adireksan said he welcomed the release of political prisoners in Burma. Speaking to newsmen, the foreign minister noted that such a positive trend could be considered a good beginning in Burma. Still, we have to wait a little longer to see how the situation unfolds. He said he had received a report to this effect from the Thai ambassador in Burma.

Asked whether there would be a problem from the prime minister's appointment of Deputy Prime Minister Narong Wongwan as chairman of the committee on international affairs owing to Mr. Narong's problem involving the United States, the foreign minister said there should be no problem because there are agencies, the Commerce and Finance Ministries, which are directly in charge of the work while the deputy prime minister will only be in charge of formulating major policies and guidelines for implementation.

Asked whether there would be a review in foreign policy, Foreign Minister Pongphon said he will pursue the work left by the previous government. He said the government of Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun had laid down a good basis in foreign affairs and there should be no problem in pursuing the path.

Change Urged in Regional Policy

BK2704013792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
27 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Asia's Wrong Burma Policy"]

[Text] In a political backwater like Burma where the most basic of citizens' rights are suppressed through the barrel of a gun, the change over last week of its nominal leader from Gen Saw Maung to Gen Than Shwe appears to be little more than window dressing. There were rumours and speculation in recent months of how Gen Saw Maung had suffered from a nervous breakdown under domestic and international pressure. That he was unceremoniously dumped and replaced by army commander Gen Than Shwe as chairman of Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) is therefore not surprising. The change is believed to have been engineered by the influential SLORC secretary general Khin Nyunt, widely believed to be the real power behind the scenes.

The junta's subsequent announcement of easing of restrictions on leading dissident and Nobel Prize winner Aung San Suu SKyi is worthy of note. But it remains to be seen whether the Saw Maung leadership will now be put up as the scapegoat for international condemnation of Burma's human-rights violation record. SLORC's latest promise to allow the first family visit for Suu Kyi since her house arrest in 1989 and to free political prisoners who are not considered a "national security threat" shows the junta has finally begun to take some heed of unrelenting international pressure. According to Rangoon Radio, the first batch of 12 political prisoners, including Burma's last democratically-elected prime minister U Nu, was released over the weekend either from jail or house arrest.

The Burmese military leadership's record of human-rights violations has deteriorated since its massacre of pro-democracy demonstrators in 1988. The general election held in 1989 was followed by a systematic and ruthless campaign where key leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD) which won a landslide majority were eliminated and NLD leader Suu Kyi put under house arrest. Rangoon's refusal to allow Suu Kyi to receive her Nobel Prize last year only served to aggravate international condemnation. In spite of ASEAN's cautious stance to avoid open criticism, a few ASEAN states such as Indonesia and Malaysia could not avoid speaking out against Burma's alleged persecution of its Muslim minorities on its western border, a policy that has triggered a massive exodus of refugees into Bangladesh.

Against this background, the latest SLORC announcement about loosening its clampdown on political dissenters is neither a magnanimous move nor something the average Burmese citizen can rejoice over. The crux of the matter is that power to rule the country should have been transferred to the NLD after the 1989 election—which SLORC itself admitted at the time was fair and clean. Suu Kyi should not have been under house arrest all this time

against both her own will and the aspirations of the majority of Burmese citizens who overwhelming demonstrated their support for her through the ballot box. Allowing her family to visit her now can hardly make up for the enormous treachery committed by SLORC. She should be freed immediately and a transfer of power to a civilian administration speedily implemented.

It is unfortunate and deplorable that those countries best positioned to influence political events in Burma—Thailand at the forefront, followed by other ASEAN countries and China—have chosen to perpetuate diplomatic and economic dealings with the Rangoon regime, a policy born out of narrow considerations for commercial gain. Taking a wider view, the policy fails to recognise the threat to the entire Southeast Asian region posed by the instability that could arise in Burma as a result of continued suppression of widely-held democratic aspirations.

Regional leaders should undertake a thorough review of policy towards Rangoon, the vaguely-defined "constructive engagement" policy recently adopted by Thailand should give way to a clearer, more progressive programme of action to help bring the citizens of Burma into the mainstream of Southeast Asia.

Joint Military Juntas Compared

BK2604023892 Bangkok *THE NATION* in English
26 Apr 92 p A9

[Editorial: "A Lesson From Burma"]

[Text] The headlines of newspapers in Thailand on Friday were full of stories about the sudden "retirement" of Burma's dictator Gen Saw Maung for health reasons. "Saw Maung pays for his dictatorship with a fall from power" THAI RAT announced gleefully on its front page.

The temptation to draw an analogy between Burma's State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) and Thailand's National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) is just irresistible. A good case can also be made for comparing Premier Gen Suchinda Khrapayun to Saw Maung, and by logical extension predicting that Suchinda's downfall is only a matter of time.

First, the similarities between SLORC and the NPKC. They both were created by military leaders with the strong support of all military top brass after a coup. The coup leaders in both cases claimed they seized government power to safeguard national security, but were opposed by democratic forces disagreeing with them.

They both promised to hold a "free and fair" general election. NPKC leaders went to the length of naming a civilian premier to lead an interim administration and vowing not to interfere with the election or to accept the premiership after the election.

Burma did hold an election in May 1990. And though Aung San Suu Kyi, the main opposition leader, was put under house arrest since July 1989, her National League for Democracy won nearly 81 per cent of seats in the

national assembly. But Slorc reneged on its promise to hand over government power to the elected politicians. It claimed that the elected representatives would merely join non-elected ethnic representatives in a national convention to discuss the drafting of a new constitution.

In Thailand's case, the NPKC's betrayal of public trust was indirect, but it was betrayal nonetheless. Some NPKC leaders allegedly funded a major party in the hope of using it as a springboard to government power and to undercut other parties. After the election, they mysteriously persuaded a majority coalition to "invite" Suchinda, who was then NPKC deputy chairman, army chief and supreme commander, to be premier. Suchinda accepted the invitation—with tears rolling down his cheeks because he had to swallow his pride and go back on his word, given in a press conference last November, not to accept government power.

To be fair, there were indeed some differences. The NPKC's coup on Feb 23, 1991, was bloodless, unlike the bloody military takeover in Burma on Sept 18, 1988, in which thousands of demonstrators were shot dead by government troops. The NPKC's hatred for politicians, especially those labelled corrupt, was temporary. Most of the former senior ministers in the deposed Chatchai administration are now back in office in the Suchinda Cabinet, including three "unusually wealthy" members whose assets have been ordered confiscated by the NPKC-appointed investigation committee. Whereas Slorc's contempt of all politicians runs deep; it seized every opportunity to put them behind bars and disband their parties.

Back to the similarities between SLORC and the NPKC. One of the architects of the coup in Burma was Brig Gen Khin Nyunt, 53, director of the Directorate of Defence Services Intelligence—Burma's KGB. After the coup Khin Nyunt became secretary (1) of SLORC and was promoted to major general. More importantly he was widely regarded as the protege of Ne Win, the strongman who held absolute power in Burma from 1962-1988. Khin Nyunt has de facto control of SLORC, thus he was not in a hurry to take over the premiership or any other Cabinet post.

Promoting Gen Than Shwe, 59, to succeed Saw Maung, 64, as SLORC chairman was apparently a well-calculated move on Khin Nyunt's part. Khin Nyunt appears to have more than enough power to nudge Than Shwe out of office anytime he wants, the same way he disposed of Saw Maung by telling him to step down and take a "complete rest".

Similarly, the man who became titular head of the NPKC, Gen Sunthon Khongsomphon, had a negligible role in the 1991 coup, which saved him from an impending transfer from the supreme commander's post to an inactive post because of his conflict with Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, head of the ruling coalition government. The man with real army force behind the coup was Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi,

who was deputy army chief. Thus it was no accident that he became secretary-general of the NPKC and interior in the Anan administration.

After Suchinda left the military to accept the premiership, Gen Itsaraphong was promoted to succeed him as army chief. His clout was further enhanced by the appointment of his young cousin, Lt Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi, to command the First Army Region, which controls Bangkok and the Central Region.

Sunthon was disappointed to see the Suchinda Cabinet include the three "unusually wealthy" politicians. But he was powerless to make any change. On Tuesday when the NPKC was formally dissolved, Sunthon quietly slipped into oblivion a very bitter man.

Suchinda is concurrently premier and defence minister, just like Saw Maung once was. At one time Saw Maung also held the posts of foreign minister and supreme commander. No wonder then that Saw Maung had nervous breakdowns because of his "enormous responsibilities" even though he had no independent press and vocal opposition parties to contend with.

Will Suchinda suffer a similar fall from power as Saw Maung? Probably so.

Suchinda's claim to legitimacy is morally untenable. His coalition of 195 MPs in the 360-member lower house is unreliable. He is a greenhorn in politics with no experience in government administration and economic policy. Moreover, the "2,000 per cent support" guaranteed by Gen Itsaraphong may disappear anytime.

Suchinda is in an impossible situation just like Saw Maung once was. He needs nothing short of a real miracle to save himself from a downfall. And the miracle had better appear soon because public disillusionment with him is growing.

Publisher of Daily Harassed; Cars Damaged

*BK2404021792 Bangkok THE NATION in English
24 Apr 92 pp A1, A2*

[Text] The publisher of THE NATION, Suthichai Yun, said yesterday he suspected an attack on two cars at his home was politically motivated to intimidate critics of the Suchinda government.

The cars were badly damaged in the incident. The windscreen of one vehicle was shattered by a rock thrown by the culprits who broke into the compound in Soi Samahan off Sukhumvit Soi 4 after midnight yesterday and fled without stealing any valuables.

They also poured paint stripper over the two cars, a Honda Accord belonging to his wife and a Mercedes Benz limousine owned by his company, causing extensive damage to the paint work.

Suthichai and his wife, Nanthawan Yun, said they were not aware of the intrusion until they were woken about 2.20 am by a team of police from Lumpini police station.

Whoever was responsible for the attack apparently called the Lumpini police station, which sent officers to his home and the office of THAI RAT newspaper which then despatched two reporters to the scene, he said.

Suthichai said he suspected the attack was designed to scare critics of the government.

"It is certainly not a case of mistaken identity, as it seems the guys (who broke in) called the police themselves to say that my house had been attacked," he said.

The fact that no valuables were stolen and the culprits had arranged for the incident to be publicized indicated that the move was aimed at showing critics of the government that they could face similar intimidation, Suthichai said.

It also wasn't likely that his neighbours had called the police because they would have also woken him up, Suthichai said.

"I understand that the guys who committed the offence wanted publicity for it," he said.

Suthichai said he would notify the Association of Thai Reporters of the incident because he was worried that other journalists could also be intimidated unless something was done about it.

Suthichai said the incident would not affect the political stance of newspapers and radio programmes produced by THE NATION Publishing Group.

Suthichai, who is editor in chief of the group, is also a political commentator with a regular radio programme and is well-known for his television appearances. He has been strongly critical of the Suchinda government.

His wife, Nanthawan, meanwhile told police yesterday evening that she thought it was a messenger delivering news to Suthichai when she was woken by the police team shortly after 2 am yesterday.

She said her husband did not have any personal adversaries.

"I guess it was related to his career and the news and comments which he presented to the public," she said.

Nanthawan broke into tears when asked whether the incident would cause a change in Suthichai's career.

Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, asked about the attack, said he was not aware of it, adding that the matter was the responsibility of the Interior Ministry and the Police Department.

Interior Minister ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Anan Kalkha, meanwhile said he had instructed police to find the culprits and bring them to justice as soon as possible.

"This is an ugly act. I don't know who did it but I have instructed police to identify and arrest them as soon as possible," he said.

Police Director General Pol [Police] Gen Sawat Amon-wiwat said the Metropolitan Police Commission considered the case to be important and had sent him a preliminary report.

Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Thirachai Riancharoen was assigned to handle the investigation into the attack and will notify the national police chief of progress on a regular basis, Sawat said.

Citing the preliminary report, Sawat said that the attack could have resulted from a personal or a professional conflict.

New Metropolitan Police Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Narong Rianthong, speaking with reporters at Suthichai's house yesterday evening, said he personally believed that the incident was related to Suthichai's work.

He said he had instructed South Bangkok Metropolitan Commander Pol Maj Gen Somak Pitrachat to see to it that the Lumpini local station trace the culprits as soon as possible.

Somsak said the attack was clearly an act of intimidation. However police did not have enough clues to conclude whether it was a personal or professional conflict which motivated the attack.

"If this was a politically motivated act, then I consider it a threat to people in the profession—If not the work of a third party with ulterior political motives (to spark uproar against the government)," he said.

He said police patrol units would be sent to Suthichai's home as a precautionary measure.

The incident drew mixed comments from politicians.

Deputy Interior Minister Suchat Tancharoen of the Samakkhi Tham Party belittled the attack as "a no-surprise incident".

"It's natural because he has created conflicts with many people. This is the way it is for reporters. But perhaps it could have resulted from business conflicts," he said.

Social Action MP Suwit Khunkitti, who will be appointed PM's deputy secretary general, urged the Interior Ministry to take action and have the culprits to take action and have the culprits arrested as soon as possible.

"Khun Suthichai is a Thai citizen and it's the responsibility of the Interior Ministry to protect all Thai people," he said.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said that if it was the work of those in power then it would be another sad event because Suthichai has fought for correct principles.

"If they want to scare anybody then they should not do so to journalists. They should do it to politicians, because people need two-sided, neutral news coverage, particularly under the present political circumstances. Any attempt to cover up facts would not last long," he said.

Itsaraphong Denies Army Involved

BK2604012492 Bangkok THE NATION in English
26 Apr 92 p A1

[Text] Army Commander in Chief Itsaraphong Nuphakdi yesterday deplored the act of vandalism against the property of THE NATION publisher Suthichai Yun and denied that members of the armed forces had anything to do with the ugly incident.

"Everybody is sorry about what happened. It is a wrongful and criminal act. I sympathize with Khun Suthichai," Gen Itsaraphong said when asked to comment on the nighttime attack that damaged two cars inside Suthichai's home.

He emphatically dismissed the speculation that soldiers may have been behind what was seen as an act of intimidation against Suthichai, also a radio and TV news commentator and vocal critic of the Suchinda administration.

"As a soldier, I can assure you that soldiers don't do such things. One of our duties is to maintain peace and order," Itsaraphong said.

Interior Minister Anan Kalintha said yesterday he did not believe the damage done to Suthichai property was an act of intimidation to try to silence criticism against the government.

"Such cases happen all the time. Only they do not make news," Anan said. "But when it happened to Khun Suthichai, many people jumped to the conclusion that the incident was an act of intimidation against journalists."

Vietnam

Papers Hail Promulgation of New Constitution

BK2404151592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 20 Apr 92

[From the 20 April press review]

[Text] Under the title "Satisfactorily Apply the 1992 Constitution and Various Laws to Life," an editorial in NHAN DAN today says:

On 18 April, only three days after the conclusion of the National Assembly session, the Chairman of the Council of State signed a decree promulgating the 1992 Constitution and the laws on the National Assembly and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam election, which had just been passed by the National Assembly's 11th session.

As a fundamental law of the SRV, the 1992 Constitution, which became effective on 18 April, is a milestone in the building of our jurisdictional state and socialist legal system.

It is the first and foremost task for all sectors, echelons, localities, and mass organizations to widely disseminate the contents of the 1992 Constitution by all means to make it a true legal basis for the comprehensive renovation of the country under the party leadership.

All sectors, especially those responsible for law enforcement, must quickly amend certain articles of various documents—from laws and decrees to theoretical materials—that no longer suit the 1992 Constitution. They must also draft new laws, especially those on the organization of the state machinery, in order to concretize the corresponding articles of the 1992 constitution and to ensure that it is scrupulously implemented.

Meanwhile, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN carries an editorial entitled "A Foundation for All Social Activities During the Renovation." The editorial says in part as follows:

Success in drafting a new law to support national construction is of utmost importance. However, the decisive factor is the strength of the entire people. Therefore, with the promulgation of the constitution, it is most important for all localities, echelons, and sectors to extensively disseminate and study the constitution and to immediately apply it to daily life. This is to make the new constitution a real driving force and compass for all people.

In the immediate future, apart from promulgating the Constitution and the laws on National Assembly and election, the resolution of the National Assembly specifically stipulates a number of points on the implementation of the 1992 Constitution. This includes the need to encourage all people to most satisfactorily exercise their rights as citizens by going to the polls to elect outstanding and worthy persons to the National Assembly to represent their wisdom and aspirations.

Our country is in a period of dynamic renovation. The promulgation of the 1992 Constitution is a bounteous source of encouragement to all our people and the Army to successfully carry out all national construction and defense tasks according to the spirit of the seventh party congress' resolution, as well as to make all preparations for the election of deputies to the Ninth National Assembly in July.

National Assembly Election Law Detailed

First Installment

*BK2604135392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 21 Apr 92*

["First installment" carrying Chapters I, II, III, and IV of the law on election of deputies to the National Assembly passed at the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] Chapter I: Generalities

Article 1: The election of deputies to the SRV National Assembly shall be conducted in accordance with the principles of suffrage, an equitable, direct, and secret vote.

Article 2: Citizens of the SRV, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, social strata, religious affiliation, educational level, profession, and length of residence are eligible to vote if they are 18 years or older and to stand for election to the National Assembly if they are 21 years or older as stipulated by law, except for the insane or those who have been disfranchised by the law or the people's court.

Article 3: National Assembly deputies shall be persons loyal to the socialist Vietnamese fatherland; struggle to realize the renovation undertaking to make the people prosperous and the country strong; possess knowledge and ability to implement duties as a National Assembly deputy and to participate in deciding on those important national issues; have good qualifications and ethics; comply in an exemplary manner with the law; and be trusted by the people.

Article 4: The Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] shall organize consultations to choose and recommend candidates for election to the National Assembly.

Article 5: The National Assembly Standing Committee shall announce and organize the election of deputies to the National assembly; supervise National Assembly elections, ensuring that National Assembly elections be conducted in a democratic manner as stipulated by law.

The government shall direct the people's committees at various levels to carry out electoral work in accordance with the law.

Article 6: Expenses incurred in holding National Assembly elections shall be borne by the state budget.

Chapter II: The Number of National Assembly Deputies, Electoral Units, and Constituencies

Article 7: The total number of SRV National Assembly deputies shall not exceed 400. Each province and municipality directly under the central authority can elect at least three deputies. Hanoi, the capital, shall be given an appropriate quota of deputies.

Article 8: National Assembly deputies shall be elected by electoral units. A province or a municipality directly under the central authority can be an electoral unit. It can also be divided into many electoral units. Each electoral unit can elect not more than three deputies. The number of electoral units and that of deputies of each electoral unit shall be based on the population figures. This shall be stipulated by the National Assembly Standing Committee and be made public at least 70 days ahead of the election day.

Article 9: The number of National Assembly deputies belonging to ethnic minority groups in each term of legislature shall be determined by the National Assembly Standing Committee in a manner to ensure that the ethnic minority population has an appropriate number of deputies.

Article 10: Each electoral unit shall be divided into many constituencies, each having between 300 and 2,000 voters. In the mountain regions, on offshore islands, and in sparsely populated areas, a locality, even with fewer than 300 voters, can also set up a constituency.

Hospitals, maternity houses, convalescence centers, and houses for the handicapped with 50 voters or more can set up a separate constituency.

People's Armed Forces units can set up separate constituencies.

The division of constituencies shall be decided by relevant village, ward, or city people's committees and approved by people's committees at the next higher level.

Chapter III: Organizations Responsible for Elections

Article 11: Responsible for the election of deputies to the National Assembly are: An electoral council at the central level, electoral committees of those provinces and municipalities directly under the central authority, electoral boards at electoral units, and electoral teams at constituencies.

Article 12: At least 90 days prior to the election day, the National Assembly Standing Committee shall set up an electoral council of between 15 and 21 members who are representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front, the National Assembly Standing Committee, and the government.

The electoral council shall elect its chairman, one or two vice chairmen, and a secretary general.

The electoral council has the following duties and powers:

1. To provide leadership for electoral work nationwide, inspect and supervise the enforcement of those stipulations of the law governing the election of deputies to the National Assembly.
2. To make public the lists of candidates running in the National Assembly election in each electoral unit in the country.
3. To consider and settle complaints about performance of various electoral committees, electoral boards, and electoral teams; to consider and settle complaints about electoral activities forwarded to it by electoral committees or electoral boards.
4. To receive and scrutinize electoral reports forwarded to it by electoral committees or electoral boards; and to prepare a report rounding up the elections nationwide.
5. To consider and decide on reelections, by-elections, or the abrogation of the electoral results at various electoral units.
6. To make public the national results of the elections.
7. To issue certificates to government representatives
8. To submit an electoral roundup report and other electoral documents to the National Assembly.

Article 13: Seventy days prior to the election day at the latest, the people's committees of those provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government shall coordinate with the standing committees of the people's councils at the same levels to establish an electoral committee composed of seven to nine members including representatives of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the administration at the same level. The electoral committee will elect its chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. It has the following duties and powers:

1. Guides the preparation and organization of elections in various constituencies and prints voters' card and ballots as designed by the electoral council,
2. Controls and supervises the enforcement of stipulations of the law on the election of National Assembly deputies from among the various electoral committees and constituencies.
3. Receives applications and records of candidates.
4. Establishes lists of candidates by constituencies and submits them to the electoral council for decision.
5. Considers and settles complaints about elections and the operations of the electoral subcommittees or complaints received from various electoral subcommittees.
6. Receives and controls electoral reports.
7. Issues communiques on the general election returns in localities.
8. Reports the forms of organizing and conducting elections as stipulated by the electoral council.
9. Forwards electoral records and reports to the electoral council.
10. Organizes reelections and by-elections as decided by the electoral council.

Article 14: Sixty days prior to the election day at the latest, the people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government shall coordinate with the standing committees of the people's councils at the same levels to establish in each constituency an electoral subcommittee composed of nine to 15 members including representatives of the VFF and the local administration. The electoral subcommittee elects its chief, one or two deputy chiefs, and secretaries. The electoral subcommittee has the following duties and powers:

1. Controls and supervises the implementation of stipulations of the law on the election of National Assembly deputies by various constituencies.
2. Controls and supervises the arrangement of ballot boxes.
3. Considers and settles complaints about the operations of various constituencies.

4. Distributes ballots to various constituencies five days prior to the election day at the latest.
5. Controls the establishment and posting of voters' lists.
6. Posts lists of candidates of the constituencies.
7. Considers and settles complaints about candidates.
8. Controls the electoral operations in ballot boxes.
9. Receives and controls ballot-counting reports submitted by various constituencies, establishes reports to confirm the results of elections in the units for submission to the electoral council, and announces those results.
10. Reports the situation of organizing and conducting the elections as stipulated by the electoral council and committees.
11. Hands electoral records and documents over to the people's committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government.
12. Organizes reelections and by-elections as stipulated by this law.

In those localities with only one constituency, the electoral committee shall exercise the authority and tasks of the electoral subcommittee and the electoral subcommittee will not be established.

Article 15: Twenty days prior to the election day at the latest, the people's committees of villages, hamlets, and townships shall establish in each constituency an electoral team composed of five to 11 members including representatives of the VFF and the local administration. The people's armed forces units will establish in each of their electorates an electoral team composed of five to nine members to represent the units. The electoral team elects its chief, a deputy chief, and secretaries.

The electoral team has the following duties and powers:

1. Organizes election at various constituencies.
2. Builds ballot booths and sets up ballot boxes.
3. Distributes stamped voting sheets to voters.
4. Ensures order and discipline at ballot booths.
5. Counts votes and establishes vote checking lists for submission to the electoral committee.
6. Hands over vote checking lists and all votes to people's committees of villages, hamlets, and townships.
7. Files reports on the organization and implementation of the elections in accordance with instructions given by the higher levels.

Article 16: The electoral council, electoral committees, electoral subcommittees, and electoral teams are prohibited from launching an election campaign for National Assembly deputy candidates.

Article 17: Agencies responsible for the elections shall carry out their tasks in accordance with the collective system. Conferences will be held only when at least two-third of their members are present. Decisions shall

be adopted with the majority of votes. These agencies may mobilize cadres and personnel of state offices and mass organizations to help in organizing the elections in accordance with decisions of the chairman of the electoral council, chairmen of electoral committees, or chiefs of electoral subcommittees.

Article 18: State agencies and personnel as well as mass organizations and societies, within the framework of their function and authority, must create favorable conditions for the electoral council, electoral committees, electoral subcommittees, and electoral teams to fulfill their tasks and duties.

Article 19: The electoral council will end its duty after filing the final report on results of the elections and transferring all electoral documents to the National Assembly. Electoral committees, subcommittees, and teams will end their duties after the electoral council announces results of the elections throughout the country.

Chapter IV: Lists of Voters

Article 20: After the posting of the lists of voters, citizens are eligible for voting in the area of their residence. The name of each voter will be listed in only one place of his or her residence.

Article 21: Lists of voters will be established by people's committees of villages, hamlets, and townships in various constituencies. Lists of voters of units of the people's army will be established by their respective commanding units in each constituency.

Article 22: Twenty days prior to the election day at the latest, agencies responsible for establishing lists of voters must post these lists at the offices of people's committees of villages, hamlets, and townships, or at public places in various constituencies. They must inform the people of the posted announcement of these lists so that the latter may check their names.

Article 23: Voters who found errors or mistakes in the lists of voters may make a verbal or written report to the agencies responsible for establishing the lists of voters within 20 days from the date of posting these lists. These agencies must note down these verbal or written reports and must, within three days, resolve the issue and inform the people concerned of the results of their action. The people concerned who are not satisfied with the action taken by these agencies may lodge an appeal to the people's court at the ward, district, or city level. Within three days from the date of receiving this complaint, the people's court must resolve this issue. The people's court decision will be the final one.

Article 24: During the period from the date of posting the lists of voters to the election day, voters who change their place of residence may ask for a certificate from the people's committee in their former locations to transfer their names to the lists of voters in their new locations. In issuing such certificates, the people's committees

concerned must immediately write the change of residence of these people in the lists of voters.

Second Installment

*BK2704100192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 22 Apr 92*

["Second installment" carrying Chapters V and VI and Section 1 of Chapter VII of the law on election of deputies to the National Assembly adopted by the Eighth National Assembly's 11th session]

[Text] Chapter V: Standing for Election, Recommending Candidates, and Holding Consultative Conferences To Recommend Candidates for Election of Deputies to the National Assembly

Article 25: Citizens wishing to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly as defined under this law must submit the following documents to the electoral committees in their constituencies 60 days prior to the election day at the latest:

- An application for standing for election;
- A curriculum vitae; and
- A certificate issued by the people's committees in the respective villages, subwards, or towns where they have established residence confirming their right to stand for election as defined under Article 2 of this law.

Article 26: The presidium of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee is to hold a consultative conference of representatives of the front's member organizations to reach agreement on the structure, composition, and number of candidates recommended by the various mass societies, social organizations, and state agencies at the central level to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly. Representatives of the electoral councils shall be invited to this conference.

The standing bodies of provincial and city front committees under the direct management of the central government shall convene a consultative conference of representatives of the front's member organizations to reach agreement on the structure, composition, and number of candidates recommended to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly. Representatives of the electoral committees shall be invited to this conference.

Article 27: Mass societies, social organizations, and state agencies shall recommend candidates to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly based on the structure, composition, and number of candidates already agreed upon.

Article 28: The presidium of the VFF Central Committee and the standing bodies of provincial and city front committees under the direct management of the central government shall use the criteria, structure, and composition of candidates already discussed and agreed upon to make a tentative namelist of nominees and

independent candidates and then forward this namelist to the grassroots establishments and places where the candidates have worked or established residence to solicit local voters' opinions.

Article 29: The conference of voters in the villages, subwards, and towns shall be organized and directed by the standing bodies of village, subward, and town front committees in coordination with the people's committees at the same level and in accordance with hamlet or street bloc administrative subdivisions. As for state agencies, social organizations, and other units, the conferences of voters shall be attended by office and manual workers or their representatives and organized and directed by heads of state agencies or trade union organizations or unit chiefs. The conference of voters among units of the people's armed forces shall be convened and directed by the commanding officers in charge and attended by members of the military units concerned.

Participants in the conference shall use the criteria for selection of deputies to the National Assembly to judge and express their confidence in nominees or independent candidates through open or secret voting as decided by the conference presidium. Nominees, independent candidates, and representatives of organizations and agencies having nominees or independent candidates shall be invited to this conference.

Article 30: The presidium of the VFF Central Committee shall consult with representatives of the front's member organizations to screen nominees and candidates on the preliminary namelists to form an official namelist of candidates to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly. Representatives of the electoral councils shall be invited to this conference.

The standing bodies of provincial and city front committees directly under the management of the central government shall consult with representatives of the front's member organizations to screen nominees and independent candidates and then make an official namelist of candidates to stand for election of deputies to the National Assembly. Representatives of the electoral committees shall be invited to this conference. The presidium of the VFF Central Committee and the standing bodies of provincial and city front committees under the direct management of the central government must submit the minutes of the consultative conferences and the namelists of candidates to the electoral councils and electoral committees 40 days prior to the election day at the latest.

Article 31: The electoral council announces the names of candidates according to the namelists of each constituency and as recommended by the VFF central committee presidium, the VFF standing committee and the electoral committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government. The number of candidates on the namelists of each constituency must be higher than the number of deputies to be

elected for that constituency. The candidates can only register at one electoral unit.

Article 32: Candidates cannot participate in the election nor join the electoral teams of their constituencies. If they are members of organizations in charge of the elections in their constituencies, the candidates must withdraw their names from the organizations on the day they register as candidates.

Article 33: No later than 30 days prior to the election day, the VFF Central Committee presidium and the VFF committees of provinces and municipalities directly subordinate to the central government must submit the files of candidates on the namelists to the electoral committee. The files of a candidate include:

1. Letter introducing the candidate;
2. Candidate's application showing name, age, occupation, native region, and home address where he stands for election;
3. Summary of his biographical data; and
4. Certificate of a state agency in his residential quarters which qualifies him for standing in election as mentioned in article 2 of this law.

The electoral committee must acknowledge receipt of these papers when receiving them.

Article 34: No later than 20 days prior to the election day, the electoral committee must post the namelists of candidates in its constituency as decided by the electoral council.

Article 35: Effective with the announcement of candidates' namelists, citizens can lodge complaints with or report to the electoral subcommittees or committees on the errors and deficiencies in the namelists of candidates. The electoral subcommittees or committees must record and settle these complaints and reports. If those who complain and report do not agree with the action taken by the electoral subcommittees or committees, they can complain and report to the electoral council. The decision of this council is final.

Article 36: Candidates whose names are on the already announced lists will exercise their right to campaign through their meetings and contacts with voters and will outline to voters their responsibility as a deputy if elected. The meetings and contacts with voters will be organized by the VFF.

Chapter VI: Electoral Procedures

Section 1: Election day.

Article 37: The election of National Assembly deputies will be conducted on the same day countrywide. The election day must be a Sunday fixed by the National Assembly Standing Committee and announced no later than 90 days prior to the election day.

Article 38: Within 10 days prior to the election day, the electoral teams must regularly inform voters of: the

election day, to enable the voters to go to the ballots; and the voting time, by such means as postings, radio broadcasts, and all other information media in localities.

Section 2: Voting procedures.

Article 39: Voting begins at 0700 and ends at 1900. Depending on the local situation, the electoral teams can decide to begin voting earlier or end later than the prescribed time, but not earlier than 0500 and not later than 2200.

Article 40: Each voter can cast one ballot. Voters must go personally to the ballot box and may not ask others to cast votes for them; nor can they vote through mail, except in those cases mentioned in article 41 of this law.

Article 41: Voters who cannot write their ballots may ask others to write for them, but they must cast their own votes. If voters cannot cast their votes because of infirmity, they may ask others to cast their votes for them. Sick and old voters who cannot come to the ballot boxes may ask the electoral teams to bring ballot boxes and votes to their homes for them to cast their votes. In such instances, the electoral teams may set up a supplementary ballot box and bring it to the voters' residence to get their votes.

Article 42: When voters write their ballots, no one—including members of the electoral teams—may take a look at their writing. If voters make mistakes, they may ask the electoral teams to give them another ballot.

Article 43: Everyone must follow the rules at the polling stations.

Article 44: When the voting time ends and voters at the polling stations have still not cast their ballots, the electoral teams must wait until these voters cast their ballots before announcing that the polls are complete.

Article 45: During the election day, the polls must be carried out continuously. If the polls are unexpectedly interrupted, the electoral teams must immediately seal all papers and ballot boxes and report the case to the electoral subcommittees and then take measures necessary to ensure the continuation of the polls.

Article 46: If the polls must be postponed because of special reasons, the electoral teams must promptly notify the electoral subcommittees, which then submit a report to the electoral council for consideration and decision.

Chapter VII: Election Returns

Section 1: Vote control.

Article 47: Votes must be controlled at the polling stations immediately after the polls have ended. Before opening the ballot boxes, the electoral teams must account for and seal all unused ballots and must invite two voters present at the stations who are not candidates to witness vote-counting.

Candidates representing mass organizations or those who are entrusted with the task may witness vote-counting and complain about vote-counting. Journalists, reporters, photographers, cameramen, and television and radio correspondents may witness vote-counting.

Article 48: The following ballots are illegal:

1. Ballots not in the prescribed form issued by the electoral teams,
2. Ballots not stamped by the electoral teams,
3. Ballots showing the number of elected persons higher than the number of deputies authorized for the constituency and,
4. Ballots on which all the candidates are crossed out.

Article 49: If any ballot is suspected to be illegal, the electoral team chief must bring this matter up for the entire team to handle.

Article 50: On-the-spot complaints about vote-counting are received and settled by the electoral teams and the action taken must be noted in reports. If the complaints cannot be handled by the electoral teams, they must be forwarded to the electoral subcommittees for settlement.

Article 51: The electoral teams must note down in reports the results of vote-counting, the total number of voters of constituencies, the number of voters actually casting their votes, the numbers of legal and illegal votes, the number of votes received by each candidate, the number of complaints received, the number of settled complaints and actions taken, and the number of outstanding complaints. The reports will be made in two copies and signed by the team chiefs, secretaries, and two voters witnessing the vote-counting. One copy of the reports will be sent to the electoral subcommittees, and the other will be sent to the people's committees of villages, hamlets, and townships no later than three days after the election day.

Final Installment

*BK2704115092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network
in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 23 April 92*

[“Final Installment” carrying sections 2-4 of Chapter VII, and Chapters VIII, IX, and X of the law on election of deputies to the National Assembly adopted by the Eighth National Assembly’s 11th Session]

[Text] Section 2: Election results at poll stations.

Article 52: Upon receiving documents on the election results from electoral teams, electoral subcommittees must review these documents and make a report confirming election results at their constituencies. The report must clearly specify the number of deputies to be elected in each constituency, the number of candidates, the total number of voters, the voter turnout percentage, the number of legal and illegal votes, the number of votes won by each candidate, the namelist of the winning candidates, complaints already resolved by electoral teams and subcommittees, and complaints already forwarded

to the electoral committees and council for final decision. The report will be made in three copies and signed by the chief, deputy chief, and secretaries of the electoral subcommittee at each constituency. One copy of the report will be sent to the electoral council, another one sent to the electoral committee, and the last one sent to the people’s committee of the province or municipality directly subordinate to the central government no later than five days after the election day.

Article 53. Among the candidates at constituencies, those who win more than 50 percent of votes from the eligible voters are qualified for National Assembly deputies, but those who have more votes than the others are the winners. In case several candidates win the same number of votes, age criteria will be considered, and those who are older will be the winners.

Section 3: Supplementary election and reelection.

Article 54. In the first election, if the number of winners are less than the number of deputies required for each constituency as specified by the National Assembly’s Standing Committee, the electoral subcommittee must clearly mention this in its report to the electoral committee. The latter will then report the issue to the electoral council for consideration and decision on holding a supplementary election. Supplementary elections must be held 30 days from the first election at the latest. The list of candidates in the first election will be used in the supplementary election.

Article 55. At each constituency, if the vote turnout is less than 50 percent of the eligible voters, the electoral subcommittee must mention this in its report to the electoral committee. The latter then must fix the reelection date within 15 days of the first election at the latest. The list of candidates in the first election will be used in the reelection.

Article 56. The list of candidates used in the first election will again be used in the supplementary election and the reelection. These elections must be organized in accordance with the stipulations of this law. The winners must get more than 50 percent of legal votes as specified in Article 53, and voter turnout must be more than 50 percent of the eligible voters, as mentioned in Article 55.

Section 4: Conclusion of the election results.

Article 57. After receiving, reviewing, and acknowledging election results sent in by the electoral subcommittees and after resolving complaints, if any, the electoral committees must file a recapitulated report confirming election results in their localities. The recapitulated report must clearly mention the number of electoral units, the total number of candidates and eligible voters in localities, the number of voters who cast their ballots, the voter turnout percentage, the number of legal and illegal votes, the number of votes won by each candidate, the namelist of winning candidates, complaints already resolved by the electoral committees and subcommittee, problems during the election

and measures taken to overcome them, and suggestions to be forwarded to the electoral council. The report will be made in four copies signed by the chairmen and secretaries of electoral committees. One copy of the report will be sent to the electoral council, one to the VFF committee of the corresponding level, and one each to the people's council and people's committee of the corresponding level within seven days of the election day at the latest.

Article 58: After receiving and checking the reports submitted by the electoral subcommittees, the electoral committees must settle complaints, if any. The electoral council is to make a final report on the elections nationwide, clearly indicating the total numbers of elected National Assembly deputies, candidates, voters, and voters who have actually cast their ballots; the voter turnout percentage; the numbers of legal and illegal votes; the namelist of elected persons and the numbers of votes they have gained; and all important incidents which have occurred, as well as ways to handle them. This report must be produced in four copies and signed by the chairman and secretary general of the electoral council. The first three copies will be sent to the National Assembly Standing Committee, the government, and the National Assembly respectively. The fourth copy is for filing.

Chapter VIII: By-Elections of Deputies to the National Assembly

Article 59: If the seat of a National Assembly deputy at an electoral unit becomes vacant during the National Assembly's term of legislature, the National Assembly Standing Committee may decide to hold a by-election to elect a deputy for that electoral unit. The National Assembly Standing Committee shall set up a by-election committee of between three and five persons who are representatives of the VFF and a number of mass organizations. The by-election committee shall be headed by the National Assembly vice chairman.

Article 60: The National Assembly Standing Committee shall decide on and make public the date for the by-election no later than 30 days prior to the election day. No by-election will be organized if the National Assembly has less than two years to go before completing its term of legislature.

Article 61: The lists of voters made by chairmen of the people's committees of villages, subwards, and towns must be announced no later than 15 days prior to the by-election day.

Article 62: 20 days prior to the by-election day at the latest, the people's committees of provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government shall coordinate with the people's committee standing bodies at the same levels to set up at the electoral unit a by-election subcommittee of between three and five

persons who are representatives of the VFF and a number of local mass organizations. The by-election subcommittee shall elect its chairman, vice chairman, and secretary.

Article 63: No later than 15 days prior to the by-election day, the chairmen of people's committees of villages, subwards, and towns shall set up at each electoral constituency a by-election team of between five and seven persons who are representatives of the VFF and a number of grass-roots mass organizations. The by-election team shall elect its team leader, deputy team leader, and secretary.

Article 64: The rights and duties of by-election committees, by-election subcommittees, and by-election teams as well as the by-election procedures shall also correspond with the regulations governing the electoral council, electoral subcommittees, electoral teams, and electoral procedures defined under this law.

Article 65: The namelists of candidates standing for National Assembly by-elections to fill the vacancies at the electoral units concerned must be made public no later than 10 days prior to the by-election day.

Article 66: Complaints about the performance of by-election teams shall be settled by by-election subcommittees. Complaints about the performance of by-election subcommittees shall be settled by by-election committees.

Chapter IX: Measures To Cope With Violations Against the Election Law

Article 67: People using deceptive, luring, or coercive measures to impede citizen participation in or standing for the election of deputies to the National Assembly and individuals in charge of the electoral work who help with the provision of falsified documents or with fraudulent vote-counting or who resort to other dark schemes aimed at providing false election results shall be subjected to disciplinary measures, administrative fines, or investigative actions depending on the seriousness of their violations.

Article 68: Everyone has the right to denounce actions against the holding of elections of deputies to the National Assembly. Individuals who prevent people from making denunciations or who resort to retaliatory measures against denouncers shall be subjected to disciplinary measures, administrative fines, or investigative actions depending on the seriousness of their violations.

Chapter X: Enforcement Provisions

Article 69: This law supersedes the law on election of deputies to the National Assembly dated 18 December 1980.

Article 70: The National Assembly Standing Committee and the government are to define the details of the enforcement of this law.

Australia

Cambodia's Son Sann Arrives for Visit

BK2804125592 Hong Kong AFP in English 1228 GMT
28 Apr 92

[Text] Sydney, April 28 (AFP)—A member of Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC), Son Sann, arrived here Tuesday at the start of an eight-day official visit at the invitation of the Australian Government.

Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, was met with cheers and applause from some 85 Cambodians who gathered at Sydney Airport to greet him.

The former Cambodian prime minister is due in the capital Canberra on Wednesday, where he is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Gareth Evans, Treasurer John Dawkins, Defence Minister Robert Ray, Industry Minister John Button and Immigration Minister Gerry Hand.

Son Sann told AFP he would be raising with Hand the issue of the threatened repatriation of a group of Cambodian boat people deemed by officials not to qualify for refugee status.

He indicated that, following talks with Hand, he may "request that the Cambodians recently arrived be allowed to stay here until the general and free elections" in Cambodia in 1993.

Son Sann meets Prime Minister Paul Keating on Thursday for private talks, before flying to Sydney on Friday for meetings with officials from the trade agency Austrade and the telecommunications agency OTC International.

He departs from Melbourne on May 5.

While in Canberra, Son Sann said he would be asking the government to intercede on behalf of the SNC to secure Cambodia's eastern border.

"The Vietnamese are still numerous in Cambodia (and) there is no control of the eastern border," Son Sann said.

"We would like to ask the UNTAC (United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) through the Australian Government to control the eastern border and the coming in freely of the Vietnamese people," he said.

"We have to ask the UNTAC to supervise the withdrawal of all Vietnamese soldiers and the illegal settlers who have come since 1979," he added.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1979, ending the bloody rule of the Khmer Rouge, which took power in 1975.

Australia hosted visits last year by fellow SNC members Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen.

Iranian Envoy Protests Release of Embassy Raiders

BK2404095692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] Iran's ambassador to Australia says the people charged with the attack on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra should not have been released on bail and has lodged an official protest with the Foreign Affairs Department. Ambassador Mohammad Hasan Ghadiri says he agrees with the prosecutor's argument that there is a danger the defendants might offend or abscond.

There are a total of nine men and one woman on bail in relation to the attack on the embassy on 6 April. A diplomat was injured and property damaged during the attack—one of several on Iranian embassies around the world.

The attacks were in response to an Iranian raid on a Iranian opposition camp inside Iraq.

Defense Ministers Welcome Cooperation, Fiji Polls

BK2404101092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 24 Apr 92

[Text] The Australian defense minister, Robert Ray, and his New Zealand counterpart, Warren Cooper, have welcomed the general election to be held in Fiji in May.

South Pacific correspondent Jemima Garrett says the ministers made their statement in a joint communique issued after a meeting in the far north Queensland city of Cairns yesterday.

[Begin recording] [Garrett] The two defense ministers, who are in Cairns for discussions on the one-year-old Australia-New Zealand closer defense relations initiative, said the Fiji election would open the way for the restoration of representative government and reiterated their commitment to review the suspension of defense relations with Fiji which have been in place since the 1987 coups.

The ministers said the review would be conducted against the background of changes in the Fiji political situation. On their own closer defense relations, the ministers noted that a number of useful steps have been taken over the past year, including higher-level exercises between New Zealand's Ready Reaction Force and Australia's Operational Deployment Force [end recording].

Papua New Guinea

Likelihood of Future Coup Dismissed

BK2704075692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0746 GMT
27 Apr 92

[Text] Canberra, April 27 (AFP)—Officials here played down Monday a report of fears of an impending coup in Papua New Guinea, while Port Moresby dismissed it out of hand.

The SYDNEY MORNING HERALD said Australian intelligence analysts are concerned that two troubling

trends were creating a climate "which might invite a military takeover" and that a coup was feared likely within a year or two.

The trends were said to be that the military was slipping beyond government control and that the government was powerless to stop lawlessness in major cities.

As evidence for the first case, the paper cited recent attacks on a boat smuggling supplies to the rebel island of Bougainville from the Solomon Islands and on a rebel fuel dump in the Solomons themselves.

Nobody has been disciplined for either incident.

Australian government sources privately cast doubts on the veracity of the report, describing it as "a bit of a beat up", while a spokesman for Defence Minister Robert Ray described it as "strange".

Asked whether strange meant untrue, the spokesman said "strange is what we're saying, we leave you to interpret it how you will."

In Port Moresby a senior government official dismissed the claims, saying the military had greatly improved its discipline and performance since the Bougainville secessionist crisis began in 1989.

The official told the Australian Associated Press the unauthorised raid on the Solomon Islands fuel depot was done in the interest of protecting Papua New Guinea sovereignty by destroying supplies destined for Bougainville rebels.

He added the the attack on the boat was to enforce the government's blockade of Bougainville.

The official said the method of recruiting for the police and military forces also diminished chances of a possible armed takeover.

New recruits were carefully selected on a quota from each of the country's 20 provinces to ensure no commander could manipulate regional or clan loyalties, he said.

On a visit to Papua New Guinea last week Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating told his counterpart Rabbie Namaliu that Canberra saw internal security and lawlessness as the country's biggest problems.

Keating stressed the importance of closer integration and sharing of responsibilities between the defence force and the police force.

Namaliu replied that his government had introduced a number of measures to improve security including the formation of a special rapid response team to protect major resource projects.

Namaliu has long claimed the source of the lawlessness in major towns came from the fact that 50,000 young

people had become eligible to work in Papua New Guinea each year for the past decade, but only 7,000 new jobs a year were created.

Government Said Tightening Bougainville Blockade

*BK2404100892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English
0500 GMT 24 Apr 92*

[Text] The aid agency OXFAM New Zealand has accused Papua New Guinea's [PNG] prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, of breaking his word over assurances he gave that the blockade of medical supplies to Bougainville would be lifted.

The director of OXFAM New Zealand, (Phil Twyford), said PNG troops had tightened the blockade by firing on canoes taking medical supplies from the Solomon Islands. He said that in a recent incident two men were killed and a boat destroyed after it was fired on by a PNG gunboat.

Mr. (Twyford) said that most of Bougainville was experiencing severe shortages of medical supplies. He said that according to local health officials, deaths from malaria were out of control and there was high infant and maternal mortality.

Meanwhile, Australia's Prime Minister Paul Keating has been asked to raise the matter of safe passage for medical supplies to Bougainville in his talks with PNG leaders. Mr. Keating arrives in Port Moresby shortly after a visit to Indonesia.

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid says Mr. Keating should seek assurances from Mr. Namaliu about the establishment of a safe corridor for medical supplies to Bougainville.

Solomon Islands

Premier Announces Major Cabinet Reshuffle

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[Text] The Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni has announced a major cabinet reshuffle. The reshuffle involves seven of the 15 ministers in the cabinet.

Radio Australia's correspondent in Honiara says one of the most important changes has been the transfer of Sir Baddeley Devesi from the Foreign Ministry to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services. Sir Baddeley, who has been closely concerned with relations with Papua New Guinea, has been replaced at the Foreign Ministry by Mr. Duddley Tausinga, the former minister for natural resources. Sir Baddeley will however keep the deputy prime minister's post.

Our correspondent says no reason has been given for the reshuffle but it is understood Prime Minister Mamaloni wants to strengthen some of the weaker ministries before the national elections early next year. The government has also announced the reshuffle of the permanent secretaries who head the administration of seven ministries.

